

Clemson University (Clemson) – Medical University of South Carolina
(MUSC)

Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree

Student Intent to Participate Form

Part A – Description and requirements

Program purpose and description: Clemson and MUSC (through its College of Health Professions) have developed the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree* program aimed at reducing students' overall educational cost from undergraduate education through graduate school while retaining the most talented students in South Carolina. Clemson students, meeting all program requirements, may apply for admittance to MUSC's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree after completing 90 semester hours of undergraduate education at Clemson. Admission to the PharmD program is not guaranteed; admissions decisions will be made solely by MUSC. If admitted into the PharmD program, Clemson accelerated students are held to the same standards and progress guidelines as all other students in the PharmD program. After successful completion of the first year of the PharmD coursework (as defined by MUSC's academic standards), Clemson University will award the student an earned baccalaureate degree subject to students satisfying all applicable requirements outlined in the Clemson University Undergraduate Announcements and completion of the formal application for graduation. This '3+4' agreement affords Clemson students a more accelerated route to entering the workforce and reduces their education-related debt.

Student eligibility requirements – per MUSC:

- a. Clemson students must take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) following completion of their sophomore year (typically in July).
- b. The current recommended score on the PCAT is ≥ 50 , but competitive scores for students admitted into the program is about 70.
- c. Students are encouraged to repeat the PCAT if their initial score is below 50. MUSC's PharmD admissions committee will consider the highest total PCAT score submitted. There is no penalty or negative connotation associated with multiple PCAT attempts.
- d. In 2017, student's unadjusted GPA at the time of application, and until matriculation if accepted into the PharmD program, must be ≥ 3.2 .
- e. Students must complete a minimum of 90 semester credit hours at Clemson (not
- f. Including any AP credits, IB credits or transfer credits) prior to matriculating at MUSC.

Prerequisite courses: Students must complete a minimum of 90 semester credit hours at Clemson (not including any AP credits, IB credits or transfer credits) prior to matriculating at MUSC.

Required courses: All General Education requirements must be completed prior to matriculating at MUSC. In addition, students should complete, with a grade of B or better, two semesters of the following courses: General Chemistry for science majors

(with lab), Organic Chemistry for science majors (with lab), and Biology for science majors (with lab)¹. Also, a minimum complete with a grade of B or better, one semester course each, which may be part of the General Education requirements, of Physics², Microbiology, Calculus, Statistics, Human Anatomy³, Human Physiology³, Psychology, Microeconomics, English Composition, English Literature/ Composition, public speaking or speech, and a humanities or social science course. While AP credit cannot be applied to the 90 hour mandate (see section 3.a), they may qualify as substitutions for specific required courses.

Notes on required courses:

¹ denotes will accept genetics and cell biology as biology prerequisites

² denotes algebra or calculus-based physics will be accepted

³ denotes will accept comparative anatomy and physiology courses

Internship Experience:

All applicants are encouraged, but not required, to complete experiences providing clinical exposure to inform their decision to enter pharmacy. These experiences, ideally, should be attained through participation in a Clemson course and/or independent planning. The latter would demonstrate a personal commitment to explore this career path. The MUSC College of Pharmacy can help facilitate internship experiences if needed. Clinical exposure within non-Pharmacy related health fields will also be considered for admissions purposes.

Application process

- a. Submit the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) Application and Fee Online:

Applications must be submitted electronically through PharmCAS. The PharmCAS application is available beginning in July during the summer after the sophomore year (<http://www.pharmcas.org/your-application/>). The PharmCAS application fee is paid directly to PharmCAS. Three letters of recommendation are submitted via PharmCAS. PharmCAS will not process an application until all information (completed application, required fee, and all official transcript[s]) is submitted to the service. PharmCAS processing may take up to five weeks once all required materials are received and verified; therefore, we recommend that you apply early. Deadline for early decision applicants is early September (check PharmCAS website) and early January (check PharmCAS website) for regular decisions.

- b. Submit the MUSC College of Pharmacy Supplemental Application:

The College of Pharmacy Supplemental Application is submitted directly to the Admissions Office of Enrollment Management. The Diversity Statement submitted via the Supplemental application is optional, but strongly recommended. Complete Doctor of Pharmacy Prerequisite Course Requirements Checklist Form and return to the Office of Enrollment Management at the following MUSC Campus address: MUSC College of Pharmacy Admissions; Office of Enrollment Management; 45 Courtenay Drive, 3rd Floor, Room 359; MSC 203; Charleston, SC 29425-2030

Program interview:

Following the complete submission of the application and supplemental application (mentioned above), applicants will be invited for on-campus interviews with College of Pharmacy faculty between September and February of the junior year. The interview is a half-day process that includes interviews, campus tour, and information session. Interview capacity is limited. Applicants are encouraged to complete and submit application materials as early as possible. An application will not be considered complete until all required application materials are received by the MUSC Office of Enrollment Management.

Early decision process:

Clemson Accelerated students may apply for early decision. Candidates participating in the Early Decision program may be offered early admission, denied admission, or deferred to regular applicant status. Applicants must have taken the PCAT in July following their sophomore year (or earlier) and have 16 hours or less of prerequisites remaining to be eligible for early decision program. Candidates deferred to regular applicant status are allowed to update their application to strengthen it with updated grades, PCAT scores, and resume. The Early Decision application deadline is early **September (check PharmCAS website for exact date)**. Early admission decisions will normally be made by late **October**.

Interaction between MUSC and Clemson accelerated students:

MUSC's College of Pharmacy recruits on-site at Clemson at least once-a-year. The College of Pharmacy expects Clemson Accelerated students to meet with a recruiter/ambassador while they are on campus.

Student responsibilities – per Clemson:

- a. The student must complete this *Intent-to-Participate* form and file it with the Clemson University Registrar's Office in room 104 Sikes Hall. Student should also notify their academic advisor that the student has submitted this Intent-to-Participate form.
- b. If after filing this *Intent-to-Participate* form the student decides to withdraw from the program or attend another college or university, the student must notify the Registrar's Office that he/she is withdrawing from this program.
- c. Assume primary responsibility for understanding and following the requirements for the Clemson and MUSC degrees, and the specific requirements for their intended major at Clemson University.
- d. Meet all eligibility requirements for the accelerated pathway program as outlined above.
- e. Follow all MUSC application for admission processes and timelines.
- f. If the student is accepted to MUSC and completes the first year of study at MUSC, a formal application for Clemson graduation must be completed; a certified MUSC transcript fully documenting completion of the first year of the PharmD program will need to be sent to Clemson at student's cost.
- g. Graduation from Clemson is not guaranteed and is subject to the student meeting all applicable requirements of the Clemson University Undergraduate

Announcements and successful completion of the formal application for graduation with the Registrar's Office. If all of these requirements are met, a degree will be awarded no earlier than the August graduation after completion of the first year of the PharmD program.

- h. If a student is admitted to MUSC but leaves MUSC before successfully completing the first year of the PharmD program, the student may seek to transfer completed MUSC credits on a course-by-course basis using Clemson's credit transfer processes. There is no guarantee that any credits will be transferred.

Part B – Request and Advisor Acknowledgement

Student request: By signing below, I _____ ; CU identification # _____ - indicate my intent to participate in the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree* program. I understand that I must meet and maintain all student eligibility requirements in order to participate. I understand that admission to MUSC and graduation from Clemson University is not guaranteed.

Part C – FERPA Permission

I agree that Clemson University has my permission to share this *Intent to Participate* form, my name and contact information, my GPA and other academic records with MUSC as part of my participation in the program and for program evaluation purposes. I understand that I can request a copy of records provided to MUSC by contacting the Clemson University Registrar's Office. This FERPA permission remains in place until I revoke this permission in writing.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

Student's Academic Advisor Acknowledgement:

I understand that the student identified above desires to participate in the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Pharmacy* program. He/she must meet all program requirements.

Academic Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Signature:

Date: