

## General Notes on PrePharmacy and Admissions Factors

(based in part on visit with Winston Minor from U Minnesota's School of Pharmacy, 10/08)

### A. Factors in Admittance at UM

1. Overall GPA
  - Average GPA=3.7 at most all Pharmacy schools. For 2008, was 3.63 at UM. NDSU's was over 3.8.
2. Residency Factor
  - Minnesota does not have a residency component in their admissions evaluation. NDSU has a huge residency factor.
3. PCAT-Pharmacy College Admission Test.
  - At U of M, an 83<sup>th</sup> percentile score on the PCAT was average for accepted applicants. NDSU's was a little higher than that. For UM, the June or August PCAT is essential, the October PCAT is too late.
4. Experience-Essential
  - worked, shadowed, etc. Health care experience (hospital, volunteer work, nursing home) helps.
5. Extracurricular Leadership Highly Emphasized and Valued by Admissions Committee
6. Recommendations
  - a recommendation from a pharmacist really helps, but also professors...
7. Goal statement
8. Live interview-U of M has a live interview.
9. Do I need a college degree? A college degree is **not** required, by either UM or NDSU. However, UM has a strongly stated a **preference** for applicants with a bachelor's degree. This is not a requirement, but the huge majority of students accepted to UM will graduate with a degree before entering pharmacy school.
10. Early Admission
  - UM has rolling admission. Registering early is good.

### B. Timeline

1. Once into Pharmacy school, it takes 4 years
  - The first three years are classes
  - The last year is clinical.
2. The Prepharmacy years: some students spend 3 years in college and are then admitted into pharmacy college. Most get a full 4-year degree before going to pharmacy school
  - the prepharmacy requirements are customized for each school, so it is helpful to decide as quickly as possible which school you want to prepare yourself for.
  - specific pre-pharmacy courses are indicated on separate sheets.

### C. Salary

- According to Winston Minor of U-of-M, the average starting salary for 2008 graduates of the U of M pharmacy schools was around \$110,000.

## Factors in Admittance at NDSU (based on conversation, March 2006)

### Grades in pre-pharmacy core classes

1. Pre-Pharmacy Core Courses GPA
  - 3.86 for students admitted, 2006 year.
2. PCAT-Pharmacy College Admission Test.
  - At NDSU 2006, 86<sup>th</sup> percentile score on the PCAT was average for accepted applicants.
3. Residency Factor
  - NDSU has a significant residency component in their admissions process, favoring North Dakota residents. This is secret and variable; it is not available to the public. But it is real and in some years is pretty significant. Other things being equal, North Dakota residents will be accepted in preference over non-North Dakota residents. So given how stiff the average acceptance profile is (3.86 in the math/science courses, and 86<sup>th</sup> percentile on the PCAT), a non-North Dakotan needs to really have a knockout application package.
  - Minnesota does not have an residency component in their admissions evaluation.
4. NDSU Attendance factor: not a huge factor, but it may help a little
5. Live interview
6. Experience-good tiebreaker
  - worked, shadowed, etc. (But a third of accepted applicants don't have any). Health care experience (hospital, volunteer work, nursing home...) better than nothing.
7. Extracurricular stuff
  - applicants who have shown leadership in other areas are sometimes admitted even if their GPA is a little low
8. Recommendations
  - a recommendation from a pharmacist really helps, but also professors...
9. Goal statement