ARMSTRONG PRE-PHARMACY PROGRAM

Advisor's Notes

Timing and Strategy:

Applications should be made in late summer or early fall of the year before the student plans to begin pharmacy school. Pre-pharmacy students should apply to several pharmacy schools to maximize their likelihood of being accepted. There are more than 90 schools of pharmacy in the U.S. Students are encouraged to apply to all pharmacy schools they would be willing to attend. A list of the pharmacy schools by state can be found at www.aacp.org (the website of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy). Pharmacy schools only admit new classes once a year so having to wait a year to re-apply costs one year's salary (which is about $80,000). Try not to worry about tuition costs when deciding where to apply. There are many sources of funding open to students in professional programs—especially one that is in high demand like pharmacy. Grants, low-interest government loans, traditional loans, scholarships, agreements to work for pharmaceutical corporations and/or health systems are some of the ways you can cover the costs of going to pharmacy school. Apply and get in and THEN worry about paying for it.

Admission Criteria:

Acceptance to pharmacy school is based on your GPA, score on the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), interview score, recommendation letters and experience working in a pharmacy. Pharmacy schools may calculate the GPA differently so students should check with each school to find out the specific details. For example, UGA calculates the GPA from the pre-pharmacy courses only. All grades for a repeated required course are included in the computation. If more than one course may fulfill a requirement (for example, HIST 2111 or HIST 2112 fulfills the American History requirement), only the course with the higher grade is included in the computation.

Pre-pharmacy students should take the PCAT during the fall prior to the fall they wish to begin pharmacy school. Information about the PCAT can be found at www.pcatweb.info.