

The Best Route to Pharmacy School:  
**THE EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM**

*How will it work for you?*

**What is the Early Acceptance Program?**

*The Early Acceptance Program (EAP) is especially designed for students who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in pharmacy. The EAP offers a smooth transition for students enrolled at Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) in Macon to be granted early acceptance to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at the Southern School of Pharmacy (SSP) in Atlanta. The EAP student will complete the two-year, 60 semester hour pre-pharmacy curriculum at CLA and then enroll in the four-year Pharm.D. curriculum at SSP.*

**Who can be part of the EAP?**

*You can be part of EAP if you are enrolled at CLA and have completed your freshman year there. Transfer students who have earned college credit elsewhere are not eligible for EAP.*

**What are the advantages for me if I participate in EAP?**

*Admission to pharmacy school is extremely competitive. During the past several years, the applicant pool at SSP has ranged from 700 to over 1000. Applicants must meet high standards to be selected for one of the 130 available positions in each entering class. If you participate in EAP, this means that you may make plans to attend pharmacy school at SSP without competing with other applicants for a position.*

**It is necessary to submit an application form to participate in EAP?**

*Yes, during the summer between your freshman and sophomore years at CLA, you must apply online to Mercer via Pharm CAS ([www.pharmacas.org](http://www.pharmacas.org)), the new centralized application service for pharmacy schools. You will also need to forward a completed supplemental application form and attach a recent photograph (required of all applicants).*

**Are there any fees associated with EAP?**

*If you are planning to enter the Southern School of Pharmacy in 2004 or thereafter, participation in the new Pharmacy College Application Service (Pharm CAS) is required. There is going to be a fee of \$125.00 that you will have to pay, just like all normal applicants. All other fees associated with admission are waived. These include the \$25.00 supplemental fee, \$25.00 matriculation fee, and two \$250.00 tuition deposits.*

**How will EAP help me to prepare for pharmacy school?**

*You will benefit from academic advising and career seminar programs provided jointly by the pre-pharmacy advisor at CLA and the pharmacy school Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions. An Open House is held at the pharmacy school each Spring to introduce freshman students to the professional program. This is a special event specifically provided for prospective EAP students.*

**Do I have to maintain a certain grade point average for EAP?**

*In order to earn and continue EAP status while enrolled at CLA, you must maintain an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.00. The average G.P.A. for students accepted through the normal admissions process is above 3.30.*

**Do I have to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test?**

*Yes, all applicants, including EAP students are required to take the PCAT. You will need to take the PCAT during your sophomore year and have the scores sent to the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions.*

**When will I learn if I have earned and can continue EAP status?**

*As an EAP student, you must make satisfactory progress in the two-year pre-pharmacy curriculum at CLA. After you submit your application via Pharm CAS, the SSP Office of Student Affairs and Admissions will monitor completion of pre-pharmacy courses and verify that your grade point average is at least 3.0. Throughout the second pre-professional (sophomore) year, you must also sustain a cumulative average of at least 3.0. During the second year, your record will be reviewed following both fall and spring semesters.*

**Will I lose EAP status if my G.P.A. falls below 3.0?**

*If your G.P.A. has fallen below the 3.0 level at the end of the fall semester or spring semester of the second year, Early Acceptance status will be cancelled. Grades in all coursework attempted are included in the computation of the G.P.A. Grades of "C" or above must be earned in pre-pharmacy courses. A grade of "D" or "F" is not acceptable for transfer of a pre-pharmacy requirement but will be calculated into the grade point average.*

**What happens if I do not earn a 3.0 and/or my EAP status is cancelled?**

*Any student who does not qualify for EAP, or loses EAP status, may be considered for admission following the normal procedure outlined in the Admissions Viewbook. Please note that if EAP status is lost after spring semester of the second year, the application deadline will already have passed.*

**I took one or more college classes through joint enrollment at my high school. I also took an Advanced Placement (AP) exam while in high school. Will this preclude my eligibility for EAP? Will these courses be applicable towards the 60 semester hours of pre-pharmacy coursework at CLA?**

*With the approval of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions, Advanced Placement (AP) and dual enrollment courses will substitute for the required courses based on transfer equivalency as determined by the Registrar. Courses that do not transfer as one of the specific required courses (see list attached), may count as one of the non-specified electives. Additional details about AP and/or dual enrollment credit can be obtained from the pre-pharmacy advisor at CLA.*

### **Is an interview required for the EAP student?**

*You will not go through the same interview process that other applicants are required to attend. During the academic year prior to entering the SSP, you will meet personally with the SSP Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions on the CLA campus. This interview will serve as an opportunity to check the progress of pre-pharmacy requirements, answer any questions that have arisen, and assist you with plans for transferring into the professional curriculum.*

### **What are my responsibilities as an EAP student?**

*You must participate in the academic advising and career seminar programs provided jointly by the pre-pharmacy advisor at CLA and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions at SSP. One program is usually scheduled at CLA each fall, as well as an Open House for students at SSP each spring. In addition, it is essential that you keep in contact with the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions. Failure to do so will indicate a lack of interest in pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy degree and in maintaining the special Early Acceptance status. If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to call us and talk about it. Should you decide not to pursue pharmacy or choose to decline your EAP status, simply notify us about your decision.*

### **I have more questions about the Early Acceptance Program. Is there someone I can contact at CLA?**

*The current pre-pharmacy advisor at CLA is Dr. Jeffrey Hugdahl, professor of Chemistry. Please do feel free to contact him with questions regarding the pre-pharmacy curriculum and EAP program. E-mail: [hugdahl\\_jd@mercer.edu](mailto:hugdahl_jd@mercer.edu). Phone: 478.301.5307.*

### **"Welcome to the Early Acceptance Program!"**

The Office of Student Affairs and Admissions is available to answer any questions or respond to any concerns you may have. We hope this program will continue to generate much enthusiasm by providing a means for Mercer CLA students to be assured of a future position in the Southern School of Pharmacy.

MERCER UNIVERSITY  
Southern School of Pharmacy and College of Liberal Arts  
EARLY ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM  
Pre-Pharmacy Curriculum

#### **Southern School of Pharmacy Requirements**

General Biology (8 hours)  
General Chemistry (8 hours)  
Organic Chemistry (8 hours)  
Physics (4 hours)  
Calculus (3-4 hours)  
English Composition (6 hours)  
Economics (3 hours)  
Speech (3 hours)  
Humanities Electives (6 hours)  
Social/Behavioral Science Electives (6 hours)

#### **Corresponding CLA Courses**

BIO 210 and 220  
CHM 111 and 112 (or CHM 115 and 241)  
CHM 221 and 222  
PHY 141/141L or PHY 161/161L  
MAT 141 or MAT 191/191L  
FYS 101 and FYS 102  
ECN 150 or 151  
CTA 256  
Humanities/Fine Arts Electives  
Social/Behavioral Science Electives