The Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy’s Early Assurance Program is a competitive admission program designed for exceptional high school seniors with a desire to pursue a health care career in pharmacy in as few as six years.
About the Early Assurance Program

Founded in 1881, the pharmacy program at MUSC has a rich history of contribution as a leader in pharmacy education and practice, research and discovery, and community stewardship.

The MUSC College of Pharmacy provides a premier pharmacy education by uniting nationally-recognized faculty and high-achieving students with the innovative interprofessional learning opportunities offered at the state’s only academic medical center; we are committed to recruiting the kind of people with the intellectual curiosity and passionate drive to develop and shape the future of health care.

This commitment is the impetus for the creation of the College’s new Early Assurance Program.

The MUSC College of Pharmacy’s Early Assurance Program is a competitive admission program designed for exceptional high school seniors with a desire to pursue a health care career in pharmacy in as few as six years.

Early Assurance Program students earn conditional acceptance to the MUSC Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program after the successful completion of college-level prerequisite courses at any accredited college or university, and maintenance of certain academic criteria.

As one of the only College of Pharmacy Early Assurance Programs located at an academic medical center, the program is a unique and innovative opportunity for high school graduates to accelerate their education, reduce debt, and jumpstart success in their health care careers.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who should apply?
High School Seniors with a passion for pursuing a health care career in pharmacy are encouraged to apply; students must meet the following requirements for consideration to the Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy’s Early Assurance Program:
• Have a 3.2 or higher unweighted GPA at the end of the fall semester of their senior year
• Achieve a score of 26 on the ACT or 1250 on the SAT
• By the end of their spring semester, achieve admittance to an accredited undergraduate program of their choice
• Commit to pursuing a career in pharmacy by taking the most demanding science and math courses available

How to Apply?
High School Seniors who meet the minimum requirements should:
• Apply online through PharmDIRECT by April 2, 2019
• Submit qualifying ACT/SAT scores to enrollment management
• Submit three letters of recommendation
• Submit an essay on why they are pursuing pharmacy as a career
• Meet with the MUSC College of Pharmacy admissions office
• Meet the MUSC College of Pharmacy Technical Standards

Why Apply?
As one of the only College of Pharmacy Early Assurance Programs located on an academic medical center there are many benefits for candidates accepted into the program:
• Guaranteed acceptance into the MUSC College of Pharmacy Pharm.D. program upon completion of all maintenance requirements/conditional acceptance expectations
• Study prerequisites at any accredited college or university of your choice
• Exemption from the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) requirements
• Special networking opportunities with College of Pharmacy faculty, students and alumni
• Ability to use LIFE and Palmetto Fellows scholarships for the Pharm.D. program
• Opportunity to apply early for MUSC College of Pharmacy scholarships
• Access to tutoring services throughout Pharm.D. program
• Early access to career mentors throughout the state and the southeast
• Earn doctorate-level education in six years
• Priority for summer research internships during undergraduate courses
• Formal press release announcing acceptance into MUSC College of Pharmacy Early Assurance Program
What happens if I am accepted?

Upon acceptance into the Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy’s Early Assurance Program and graduation from high school, students may complete the prerequisite requirements at any accredited undergraduate program of their choice and must:

- Successfully complete all prerequisite requirements in two (2) academic years* with a GPA of 3.25 or higher
- Successfully attend the MUSC College of Pharmacy PREP+ program the summer following the first year of college
- Work/Shadow a minimum of 20 hours in pharmacy or interview at least five pharmacists
- Submit a PharmCAS application by the fall semester of their sophomore year and designate themselves as Early Decision. Early Decision applications in PharmCAS are due in early September
- Successfully interview with the College in the fall semester prior to starting the Pharm.D. program
- Successfully pass the required background check
- Satisfy the MUSC College of Pharmacy established technical standards for the admission, progression and graduation of the Pharm.D. Program

Those who do not meet these requirements may apply for admission under the regular Pharm.D. admission criteria and must take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT).

*exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for exceptional circumstances

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THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, The Medical University of South Carolina is the oldest medical school in the South. Today, MUSC continues the tradition of excellence in education, research, and patient care. MUSC educates and trains more than 3,000 students and residents, and has nearly 13,000 employees, including approximately 1,500 faculty members. As the largest non-federal employer in Charleston, the university and its affiliates have collective annual budgets in excess of $2.2 billion. MUSC operates a 750-bed medical center, which includes a nationally recognized Children’s Hospital, the Ashley River Tower (cardiovascular, digestive disease, and surgical oncology), Hollings Cancer Center (one of 68 National Cancer Institute designated centers), Level I Trauma Center and Institute of Psychiatry.