

Criteria for Evaluating Prospective Graduate Students

The Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program faculty will use the following criteria to evaluate the admissions materials of prospective doctoral students. Although we do not use a specific formula with scoring on each criterion, the more criteria the applicant successfully meets, the better his or her chances of acceptance.

- The statement of purpose should be a proposal explaining why a student needs to train in our program. The statement should specify how the student's research interests fit with the faculty's research interests. Finally, the statement should describe how the training in our program would facilitate the student's career objectives.
- The personal statement and other application materials should demonstrate excellence in writing because it is essential to completing our writing-intensive courses, as well as the dissertation. Writing is also the primary activity required by most PhD-level positions.
- Ideally the student should demonstrate a history presenting or publishing peer-reviewed research. Strong applications usually provide evidence that the student has participated in the conduct of research, although not necessarily in pharmaceutical outcomes research and policy.
- Most of our successful applicants have professional work experience before applying to the program. Ideally, this work experience includes exposure to pharmaceutical outcomes research and policy projects that have focused the student's career objectives. Internships or practicums can provide valuable exposure to the field.
- We review applicants' grades and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in the context of the entire application. We do not have specific cut-offs for admission. Our primary concern is that applicants demonstrate sufficient competency in quantitative and communication skills so that he or she will be likely to succeed in a competitive classroom environment.
- The Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program is quite different from a pharmacy administration program. Students interested in pharmacy administration, particularly training in management, are encouraged to seek training at other universities.