Date: Friday, October 31, 2019

Subject: International-Trained PharmD Program Admissions Policy

The International-Trained PharmD (ITPD) Program is open to pharmacists who possess a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in pharmacy from any locally-approved or accredited college or university program outside of the United States and Canada. Applicants must be licensed pharmacists and be in good standing with the licensing agency in their country. Successful applicants must also demonstrate a desire and commitment to expand patient-centered pharmacy care outside of the United States.

There is no minimum grade point average (GPA) to apply to the ITPD Program. University policies require background checks for all students upon admission. The admissions committee reserves the right to consider exceptions to the admissions policies on a case-by-case basis.

Students begin the ITPD Program in the summer semester. Applications may be submitted at any time for the ITPD Program, provided the application is received prior to the application deadline of January 15. If the deadline falls on a weekend or United States holiday, then the deadline will be the next business day. Please contact the DDP Office if there are concerns about meeting the application deadline. Otherwise, applications received after the January 15 deadline will be considered for the following admissions cycle. Acceptance into the ITPD Program will be honored for one year from the start of the summer semester; otherwise, the applicant will be required to reapply.

As a student of the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, all ITPD students are subject to all school and program policies, including the ethics and conduct code and academic advancement policies, as our entry-level PharmD students. A full list of these policies is located on the Policies and Procedures website page.

To apply to the ITPD Program, applicants must complete by the January 15 deadline ALL of the application materials listed below, which are reviewed by the School of Pharmacy Admissions Committee:

- **Application Form** – The application form is located on the website and can also be obtained by contacting the DDP Office.

- **Personal Statement** – A personal statement describing the applicant’s reasons for seeking a PharmD degree and applying to the ITPD Program, specifically describing their goals and plans for expanding the practice of patient-centered pharmacy care outside the United States upon completion of the program. Details regarding specific questions to address and
formatting instructions can be found in the professional goals section of the application and on the admissions website.

• **Resume / CV** – A current, updated resume or curriculum vitae (CV) describing the applicant's professional pharmacy experience and accomplishments. ITPD applicants must possess a minimum of one year of pharmacy practice experience as a licensed pharmacist outside the United States. Pharmacy practice experience must be clearly outlined on resume/CV.

• **Transcripts** – Official transcripts from the locally-approved or accredited school of pharmacy from which the applicant graduated and from any degree program(s) in which the applicant has been enrolled in since obtaining the pharmacy degree. The transcript must be sent to an official transcript review service; approved foreign transcript services are those used by PharmCAS and can be found on their website ([http://www.pharmcas.org/applicants/transcripts.htm](http://www.pharmcas.org/applicants/transcripts.htm)). An official copy of the transcript review must be sent from the transcript review agency to the DDP Office.

• **Pharmacy License or Certificate** – A notarized or barrister certified copy of the applicant’s current pharmacy license or certification. If the applicant's local area does not require a pharmacy license or certification to practice as a pharmacist, written verification of qualifications to practice as a pharmacist must be provided.

• **Photo Identification** – A copy of the applicant’s current, valid passport with photo.

• **Letters of Support**
  
  o **Letters of Recommendation**: Three recommendations written on standard University of Colorado School of Pharmacy recommendation forms. Recommendations will be completed by people who know the applicant’s professional, academic, and/or personal achievements or qualities well. As such, references must be from professional contacts, such as employers, supervisors, former faculty, preceptors or professional colleagues. References from clergy, family members, friends or politicians will not be accepted. Applicants should review the guidelines as listed on the recommendation form. The recommendation forms are located on the website and can also be obtained by contacting the DDP Office.

  o **Professional Sponsorship**: Each applicant should have a letter from a professional sponsor (typically an employer), who will attest to their support of the candidate’s pursuit of the degree program, and the applicant’s plans for expanding the practice of patient-centered pharmacy care outside the United States. This sponsorship does not require financial sponsorship. If the professional sponsorship is also serving as a reference they must submit a letter of recommendation and a professional sponsor letter.

• **Application Fee** – A nonrefundable application fee of $200.00 (US dollars) is required as part of the admissions process. Checks or money orders should be made out to the University of Colorado.
• **Competency Exam** – Applicants are required to pass a pharmacy foundations competency exam comprised of multiple topics, provided as two separate exams. Applicants will need to pass each exam. The exams will assure baseline knowledge in coursework typically provided in the first and second years of the entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy program, and likely provided in the applicant’s BS in pharmacy coursework. Individual topics to be tested will include: biochemistry, cell biology, mechanisms of disease, pharmaceutics, medicinal chemistry, microbiology, pharmacology/toxicology, pharmacokinetics, drug design and drug action, immunology, and basic anatomy. The examinations will take place as a requirement prior to admission. Results of the competency exams will be valid for 2 years (or two admission cycles). Applicants will be limited to sitting for the exams twice per admission cycle. After sitting for the competency exams four times, restrictions may be placed on any subsequent registration. A study guide will be provided to promote successful passing of the exam, and details regarding how to sign up for the competency exam can be found on the ITPD Program Admissions Requirements website page.

• **Please note:** Applicants who have successfully passed the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalent Exam (FPGEE) in 2003 or after may not need to take the competency exam. Instead, these applicants will submit an official copy of their FPGEE exam results.

• **English Language Proficiency** – The ITPD Program requires all applicants be proficient in the English language, as detailed in the program’s technical standards. As such, all applicants will demonstrate English language proficiency by meeting one of the following items:

  o Complete an evaluation of English proficiency by taking either the internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or academic-based International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. **NOTE:** Exam scores completed within two years of the application deadline date will be accepted.

  o **TOEFL Score Requirements** – Applicants must achieve a minimum composite score of 89 on the internet-based TOEFL exam taken within the past two years. The required minimum scores on each of the individual components of the test are: listening 20, speaking 23, and writing 21.

  o **IELTS Score Requirements** – Applicants must achieve a minimum composite score of 6.5 on the IELTS taken within the past two years. The required minimum scores on each of the individual components of the test are: listening 6.5, speaking 7.0 and writing 6.0.

  o **Exam Score Date** – Exam scores cannot be older than two years from the program application deadline date. If the applicant took the exam more than two years ago, then the applicant will need to retake the exam to complete the admissions process. Case-by-case exceptions will be considered.

  o The DDP committee may request an applicant complete the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) on a case-by-case basis, and with the requirement that a level of Advanced Low be achieved.
After January 15, the Admissions Committee will review each applicant’s admissions packet. Those applicants who will move forward in the admissions process will be contacted to complete the items as listed below.

**Interview** – The interview process is designed to assess the applicant’s knowledge of the profession, communication and ability to perform in a positive, professional manner when working with others. To be considered for admission, applicants must participate in a video teleconferenced admissions interview, which will consist of a verbal evaluation. The interview will occur after a review of the applicant’s materials completed as listed in the English Language Proficiency sections. The DDP Office will contact the applicant to schedule the interview.

**Visa** – The U.S. government requires all international applicants to provide a proof of ability to pay tuition and living expenses before a formal letter of admission, or the form for obtaining a visa, will be issued. If selected for admission, students will need to submit the Request for Student I-20 for Foreign Applications form. This form is typically available for download from July to December of each year. The DDP Office or the Office of the International Student and Scholar Services will contact and assist students accepted into the ITPD Program in obtaining a student visa.