

Admissions Requirements and Process

Students seeking admission to the CNU Ph.D. program in Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Science must submit their application materials through the PharmGrad web portal and pay the associated non-fundable fee: <https://pharmgrad.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>.

All applications must include: curriculum vitae, official college transcripts, a personal statement (maximum of 2,500 words), three letters of recommendation. Students must also pay the non-fundable application fee charged by PharmGrad. Please note that the personal statement must indicate faculty dissertation advisor preference and include an explanation of why the applicant would like to work with this faculty member.

All applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher from an accredited four-year college or university. They must also have completed math coursework and coursework in either biology, physiology, chemistry and/or computer science/engineering as well as provide evidence of research experience (see Table 1 below for details). If degree transcripts are in a language other than English, they must be translated and independently assessed (e.g. via <https://www.naces.org/> or <http://aice-eval.org/>) and the independent assessment must be included in their application submission. Applicants who are non-native English speakers are required to demonstrate English language proficiency. We accept TOEFL or IELTS scores, applicants must meet these required minimum scores: 80 on TOEFL(iBT) or 6.5 on IELTS. A TOEFL/IELTS exam score submission can be waived only if the applicant received a degree from an institution where English is the language of instruction, or the applicant has 3 or more years of work experience in the US.

Table 1: Admissions requirements

Admissions requirement	Description	Preferred grade/score, if applicable
Undergraduate degree from an accredited four-year college or university	Official transcripts must be provided, if transcripts are in a language other than English then an independent assessment must be included in the application submission	GPA of 3.0 or higher
Math coursework ¹ plus coursework from at least one of the areas listed in Table 2 (biology, physiology, chemistry, or computer science/engineering)	Calculus and Biostatistics (3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours for each course), or equivalent	>3.0 GPA
Research experience	At least one letter of recommendation should document and describe the applicants research experience, specific details regarding research experience	NA

	should also be included in the personal statement	
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Table 2 shows additional admissions preferences which will be used to help rank applicants. NOTE: All applicants must have completed coursework for at least one of the courses listed (biology, physiology, or chemistry), completion of more than one of these courses if strongly preferred.

Table 2: Summary of admissions preferences

Admissions preferences	Description	Preferred grade/score, if applicable
GRE General Test	Scores in verbal and quantitative reasoning will be reviewed	>150 in verbal reasoning and >150 in quantitative reasoning
Advanced degree (E.g. Master's degree, PharmD, MD, DDS)	Degree must be from an accredited 4-year college or university	>3.0 GPA
Biology coursework ¹	General Biology I and II (4 semester hours or 6 quarter hours for each course), General Biology I or II lab (1 semester hour or 1 quarter hour), or equivalent	>3.0 GPA
Physiology coursework ¹	Two courses in Physiology or combined Anatomy/Physiology (4 semester hours or 6 quarter hours for each course), or equivalent	>3.0 GPA
Chemistry coursework ¹	General Chemistry I and II with lab, Organic Chemistry I and II with lab (4 semester hours or 6 quarter hours for each course), or equivalent	>3.0 GPA
Computer Science or Engineering coursework ¹	Programming concepts and methodology (3 semester hours or 5 quarter hours) OR Principles of Bioengineering (3 semester hours or 5 quarter hours), or equivalent	>3.0 GPA
Strong interest in a career in Pharmaceutical & Biomedical research ²	Assessed by review of personal statement and/or letters of recommendation	NA
Resilience, ability to work well with others ²	Assessed by review of personal statement and/or letters of recommendation	NA

¹ Applicants must have completed coursework in one of these areas in addition to math coursework

²Specific details and/or examples should be included in the personal statement along with the student's choice of dissertation mentor and an explanation of why the applicant would like to work with this faculty member.

Note that requests for course credit transfers from other programs will be reviewed by the program committee on a case-by-case basis. The program committee will make a recommendation to the CNU Ph.D. program director regarding transfer credit and as to what year of the program the student may enter. Final decisions regarding transfer student admission will be made by the Dean of CNUCGS.