



Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy
University of Washington, Department of Pharmacy
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<http://depts.washington.edu/porpp/Gradpage.htm>



Considerations for Evaluating Prospective Graduate Students

The Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program faculty will consider the following criteria in evaluating the admissions materials of prospective doctoral students.

- The statement of purpose should be a proposal explaining why a student would like to join the program. The statement should specify how the student's research interests fit with the faculty's research interests. We are a small, very specialized academic program. An advantage to students in our program is that, with this specialization, students typically pursue their own topics of interest with guidance from various faculty. This differs from programs where students participate in faculty directed research projects. 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.
- Most of our successful applicants have some 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 that he or she will be likely to succeed in a competitive classroom environment. A very important element is the applicant's written and spoken English capabilities. There are very practical implications for lack of fluency: ability of the applicant to participate as a teaching assistant (see <http://www.grad.washington.edu/Acad/gsmemos/gsmemo15.htm>), as well as language skills-related difficulties with course work, etc. We highly recommend that, for applicants for whom English is not a "first language", they have their skills assessed and seek further training, as necessary, prior to applying to our program.
- We typically provide support for our students for the first and sometimes the second year of our program through teaching and/or research assistance positions. Second year funding depends on a number of factors that are beyond our control such as the state's (and hence the University's) financial circumstances.
- Traditional "pharmacy administration" courses are not available on the UW campus, though masters and doctoral programs available through the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine may be of interest.