

Pre-S.C.R.I.P.T.  
UNM's Pre-Pharmacy Society  
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 28, 2007  
Location: SUB, Higher Grounds  
Presiding: Amina Akhil  
Recorder: Emily Goulding

7:03pm

Amina Akhil, Pre-Script President, began the fourth Pre-Pharmacy Society meeting. The location of the room was moved from Santa Ana to the Higher Grounds area due to a scheduling conflict. She also announced a change in the agenda. This meeting will be a Q&A session with Krystal Weaver, coordinator for student advisement at the College of Pharmacy.

7:04pm

Krystal gave the times and dates for next semester's OSCEs. The OSCEs are part a class you take in your third year of pharmacy school. The class teaches students how to diagnose patients. Pre-pharmacy students are used to play the part of the patient. They will be sent a case, learn it, and act it out. More information will be given as the time approaches. The dates for the OSCEs are:

- February 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-4:00pm
- April 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-4:00pm
- May 10<sup>th</sup> Final 8:00pm-5:00pm (this will be broken into separate times)

The OSCEs will be held these weeks from Tuesday thru Friday. You can just sign up for one day of the week, or as many as you like. This is an excellent way to meet pharmacy students and staff. More information will be provided later.

7:06pm

**Q:** If you already submitted your supplemental information, when will you find out when everything else has been submitted?

**A:** When UNM gets the application you will receive an email saying it is complete.

**Q:** How do you know if your letters of recommendation have been submitted?

**A:** It will show "completed" on your file online on PharmCAS.

**Q:** What is APhA?

**A:** It is an organization for current pharmacy students. It is a great way for pre-pharmacy students to get involved in the community. They can volunteer at health screenings. You can go to [www.pharmacists.com](http://www.pharmacists.com) for more information, or contact Troy Russell, APhA-member-at-large.

**Q:** What can you take if you cannot sign up for Biol423?

**A:** You can take Chem421. There is not much of a difference. It is recommended that you take at least two science classes per semester. The admissions committee wants to see you working towards a degree. Take 14-18 credit hours (PE classes are not counted in this total).

**Q:** Do we have sign in sheets at volunteer events?

**A:** It is based on the honor system, but the admissions committee can check sign up sheets if they doubt you.

**Q:** What if you do not get a letter of recommendation from a professor?

**A:** It hurts a little, but if a professor would write a bad letter, don't ask them. The admissions committee wants to see letters academically as well as professionally. There are straight-A-students that might be a jerk in class. Sometimes professor letters are the best ones.

**Q:** Does your academic letter of recommendation have to be from a science teacher?

**A:** Preferably, because pharmacy is science-based, but they accept whatever you submit.

**Q:** Can your letter be from a TA or SI leader?

**A:** Yes, in some cases, you get to know your TA/SI leader better than the professor.

**Q:** Can you participate in opportunities to volunteer with other groups outside of Pre-Script and still get credit for it?

**A:** Volunteering with other groups is great. They prefer pharmacy volunteering, but anything is good

**Q:** What if you volunteer after you submit your application?

**A:** You can discuss it in your interview.

**Q:** What are they looking for in your personal statement?

**A:** Include why you are interested in pharmacy, what turned you towards it, where you see yourself in the future, etc. Help show the committee who you are. Do not simply put "I want to help people." Elaborate, but be concise.

**Q:** If you have previous work/skills from 10 years ago, could you include it in your personal statement?

**A:** Sometimes it works, but not always. Avoid awkwardness. You can include how a skill helped you. Have someone else read over your personal statement before you submit it.

**Q:** What do you do if you don't receive your PCAT scores until after the deadline? (Referring to the January PCAT)

**A:** Submit everything by the deadline. Make sure to send your scores to PharmCAS Code 104 (NOT to UNM directly, it will delay the time it takes to receive scores.) Your application will be on hold until you get those scores; be

patient. They will process it as quickly as they can. You will get an email when your file is complete.

**Q:** Are there rolling admissions this year?

**A:** Only for out-of-state residents. New Mexico residents will find out at the end of May/beginning of June.

**Q:** In PCAT scores, what percent are they looking for?

**A:** At least 40-50% in each category.

**Q:** Is a low score going to keep you out?

**A:** It will hurt, but they will look at grades from your classes. UNM is not like other schools that have a clear cut percentile you must reach. The average this year was 70%. The PCAT scores will mean a little more this year than last year.

**Q:** How is the writing portion weighed from the PCAT?

**A:** The committee will look at the score, but you're given a writing exercise on the day of the interview. Sometimes ethical issues come up, but they want to see you answer the question and see if your answer is understandable

**Q:** What is a competitive GPA.

**A:** New Mexico gives you an interview if you have a 2.7 GPA. The average for the entering class was 3.38. Shoot for a 3.0. A couple of C's is ok, but do not have straight C's.

**Q:** Is pharmacy experience mandatory?

**A:** Exposure to pharmacy in any element is what the committee is looking for; research experience is great.

**Q:** How do you calculate your GPA, from just the pre-reqs or all of your classes?

**A:** UNM makes their own spreadsheet. This evens playing field (takes out P.E. courses)

**Q:** On your application, do you enter classes even if you have dropped them?

**A:** Yes, put everything on your transcript. They don't want to see a lot of W's.

**Q:** If you dropped a course and took it later, how do you mark it on PharmCAS?

**A:** If it's on your transcript, mark it as "repeated."

**Q:** Do you mark classes taken at CNM on your PharmCAS application?

**A:** All classes get counted, regardless of where you take them. You don't have to take courses at UNM.

**Q:** Can you reschedule your interview?

**A:** It is very difficult to do so. It can be done only if there is a severe illness, surgery, etc. It occurs very rarely, however.

**Q:** What do you do at a health screening?

**A:** Measure height, weight, blood pressure, and BMI. You do not need training, and there are pharmacy students to help if you need it.

7:35pm

Meeting adjourned.