

Senate
Senate Chamber
[via Zoom audio conference](#)
WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2021
1:30 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

XI ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2. Recommendations from the COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee

- c) RE: Temporary Revision to Admission Requirements, Doctor of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, Removing Pharmacy College Admissions Test Requirement, for Fall 2021 Intake**

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**University
of Manitoba**


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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2021

To: Jeff Leclerc, University Secretary

From: Todd Mondor, Deputy Provost (Academic Planning & Programs) & Chair, COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee (CRSC) 

Subject: Proposal to Modify the Admission for the College of Pharmacy

Please find attached a proposal from the College of Pharmacy to temporarily modify the 2021-2022 admission requirements to the Pharm.D. in response to anticipated changes in the availability of the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.

The proposal was reviewed by the COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee and by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) on January 21, 2021 and no concerns were raised.

I would ask that if this proposal is support by Senate Executive that it be considered by Senate at its February 3, 2021 meeting.

Cc.: Dr. Janice Ristock, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dr. Mark Torchia, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning); Lead, Academic Team, COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee
Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences
Mr. Jeff Adams, Executive Director, Enrolment Services

Comments of the Senate Executive Committee:
The Senate Executive Committee endorses the Report to Senate.



Memorandum

January 26, 2021

TO: Dr. Todd Mondor, COVID-19 Recovery Steering Committee

FROM: Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

SUBJECT: Pharmacy Admissions Process for the Fall 2021 intake

Further to our communication of January 22, 2021 the College of Pharmacy is requesting a change to the Admissions Criteria that was published in the Applicant Information Bulletin 2021–2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the attached proposal that was approved at the January 26, 2021 College of Pharmacy Special College Executive Council Meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or require further information.

Thank you.



The College of Pharmacy is requesting a temporary change to the selection process as published in the Applicant Information Bulletin 2021–2022 (https://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/media/pharmacy_bulletin.pdf), due to the ongoing concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current published criteria, Section 4 ‘Selection Process,’ E ‘Overall Score’ are as follows:

All eligible applicants are ranked for selection using an overall score according to the following criteria (subject to eligibility provisions):

- a) Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) 60%
- b) Critical Skills Essay 10%
- c) Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT®) 30%

Background

For the 2021-2022 admissions competition, applications close on March 1, 2021, and applicants are required to complete a PCAT evaluation by February 5, 2021. However, as a consequence of ongoing efforts to contain the community spread of COVID-19, PCAT Testing Services were forced to suspend PCAT testing in Manitoba, and cancelled a number of testing appointments scheduled for January. This has resulted in significant levels of concern amongst a number of applicants and their parents.

The College has had repeated contacts with Pearson about the possibility of resuming services through February and March and received tentative confirmation that, subject to COVID restrictions and Pearson’s ability to address some technical concerns, testing may be possible during this period. On this basis, on January 11, 2021, the College informed applicants that the deadline for writing the PCAT would be extended from February 5th to March 31, 2021.

Unfortunately, on January 12, 2021, the College learned that in response to individual applicant queries, PCAT Customer Relations had informed some applicants that testing capacity would not be available until April, 2021. In addition, we also learned that some desperate students are planning to access testing services outside of Manitoba (either in Saskatchewan or British Columbia), to ensure access to PCAT assessment. The College is now faced with heightened concerns and uncertainty about testing amongst students, inconsistent communications with PCAT Testing Services, and serious concerns that students may be putting themselves, and others, at risk by attempting to secure a PCAT evaluation outside of the province.

As a consequence of the above, on the recommendation of the College of Pharmacy Admissions Committee, at a January 26, 2021 College of Pharmacy Special College Executive Council Meeting, a motion to remove the PCAT requirement from all parts of the admissions cycle criteria for the Pharm.D. program for 2021-2022, was endorsed. Therefore, The College of Pharmacy requests that Senate endorse a motion for a temporary change to Section 4E ‘Overall Score’ (above), with immediate effect, to—

All eligible applicants are ranked for selection using an overall score according to the following criteria (subject to eligibility provisions):

- a) Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) 80%
- b) A Critical Skills Assessment 20%

The College is of the view that the proposed change will eliminate the current uncertainty surrounding the admissions process, as well any incentive for students to attempt to secure a PCAT test outside of Manitoba. This change might also encourage additional applications from those whose concerns about the potential risks associated with PCAT testing in the current environment prevented them from applying. Additionally, this will facilitate applications from those previously unable to consider PCAT assessment because of quarantine constraints associated with travel, or a diagnosis of COVID.