

Rural Pharmacy Practice Educational Initiative (RPPEI)

Typically the process for the Rural Pharmacy Practice Educational Initiative (RPPEI) program occurs during the months of May, June & July after completion by the student of the first or second year of college and pharmacy prerequisites. Since the prerequisites have changed from 60 hours to 90 hours, this process may begin after either the first or second year, but the second year is preferred as the student has had an opportunity to demonstrate their academic ability in college by that time and more and better objective data is available from which to make a decision regarding admission.

The requirements and rough timeline for this program are as follows:

- 1) Student completes first or second year of pre-pharmacy curriculum at a rural Nebraska educational institution (minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and a GPA of 3.5 in science courses is required although a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above is strongly recommended);
- 2) A written nomination for the RPPEI program is provided to UNMC COP by the student's pre-pharmacy advisor (~May). In addition to information about the student's academic talents and personal attributes, at least part of that nomination letter is expected to address or emphasize the student's commitment to practice in a rural Nebraska community;
- 3) Based upon the written nomination, agreement by Associate Dean/Admissions Committee to accept the student's application and interview the student; this is communicated to the student which then triggers the next steps;
- 4) Letter of interest from the student (again emphasizing the rural commitment) plus completion of an application (not PharmCAS at this time) and personal questionnaire, obtaining letters of reference and submitting transcripts to UNMC;
- 5) Interview by Admissions Committee plus an extemporaneous writing exercise (can be done before application has been received);
- 6) Admissions Committee review of application and other materials;
- 7) Admissions Committee approval for early acceptance (~July);
 - a. A letter is sent to student offering admission ... student must then respond affirmatively to that offer during the summer and then proceed to take the second &/or third year of pharmacy prerequisite classes appropriately (depending on where they started in the process). As long as the student continues to meet GPA requirements and makes appropriate progress, the student will be considered as an early "accept".
 - b. In accordance with the PharmCAS process, he/she must take the PCAT and complete all aspects of the PharmCAS application during the fall of the calendar year preceding their year of admission.
 - c. If all goes appropriately with academic performance, the student will then be sent a letter in the spring confirming that everything is in order and requesting affirmation of their intent to attend our program. There also will be documentation to secure their class space.
 - d. Once all that is completed, the student becomes part of the accepted class and receives materials accordingly.

One difference occurs during the professional program for RHOP/RPPEI students. During the senior year, all pharmacy students are required to complete at least one rural clerkship. RHOP / RPPEI students must complete four rural clerkships (i.e. outside the Omaha / Lincoln area).