



## A2 ACHIEVE COLLEGE ADMISSION RISK ASSESSMENT

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High Point University – Primary Analysis

### OVERALL A2 ACHIEVE RISK CATEGORY: MODERATE RISK

High Point is a realistic school for you to pursue seriously. I would **not** call it a safety. I also would not place it in the same risk category as a school like UNC-Chapel Hill.

Based on what we know today, I consider High Point a **possible target with moderate admissions risk**, and I think the school deserves to remain one of your highest priorities.

There are two separate questions, though:

1. Can you be admitted to High Point University?
2. And can you successfully move through High Point's pre-pharmacy/Early Assurance pathway and ultimately into the PharmD?

Those are related, but they are not the same question.

### THE BIG PICTURE

Your application has several things High Point's holistic process can use: a rigorous senior schedule, substantial community involvement, healthcare preparation, long-term equestrian commitment, and a personal story that goes far beyond your GPA.

The academic side is less certain. You report a 3.3 **weighted** GPA, but we still do not have your unweighted GPA. Your ACT superscore is 26. HPU's current admissions materials report an average ACT of 27 for the Class of 2029. One HPU class-profile page lists a 3.0 unweighted GPA, while another current HPU admissions-profile page reports a 3.52 average unweighted GPA for the same class.

Because HPU's own pages are inconsistent on that GPA figure, and because your 3.3 is weighted, I am not going to manufacture a precise GPA comparison. We need your unweighted GPA and transcript.

Your ACT, however, is straightforward: a 26 is only one point below HPU's currently published 27 average. It is not a score that makes you uncompetitive. It also is not a score that gives you an admissions advantage.

That is why I land at moderate risk.

## YOUR ACADEMIC POSITION

Your overall GPA is the biggest academic vulnerability in the application until we can see the underlying transcript. The good news is that your course selection gives us something useful to say. You have taken AP Chemistry, AP Seminar, AP U.S. History, AP Language, and a sequence of health-science courses. Your senior schedule includes AP Calculus AB, Advanced Organic Chemistry, AP Government, AP Literature, debate, and a health internship. For a student saying, “I want to study pharmacy,” AP Chemistry, Advanced Organic Chemistry, Calculus, patient-care coursework, and a healthcare internship are exactly the kind of classes I want admissions officers to notice.

Your rigor does not erase grades. But it gives the grades context and makes your stated academic direction believable. The most important academic thing you can still do is perform well senior year. If you earn strong grades in your most rigorous senior courses, particularly math and science, you give HPU additional evidence that you can handle the coursework waiting for you in pre-pharmacy.

## TESTING POSITION

High Point is test optional for undergraduate admission. HPU tells applicants to submit scores when they believe those scores strengthen the application. Your 26 ACT is close to HPU's 27 average, and your Science 28 and English 29 are respectable.

My preliminary recommendation would be to **lean test optional for general HPU admission** if your unweighted GPA and transcript give us a stronger academic presentation than the 26 does. I would not finalize that decision until I see the transcript.

There is also an important wrinkle involving scholarships and Honors. One current HPU admissions page states that an SAT or ACT is required for Presidential Scholarship or Honors Scholar consideration, while HPU's current Presidential Scholarship page says students may choose whether to submit scores.

Those are conflicting instructions from the university itself. So I do not want us guessing. If Presidential Scholarship or Honors consideration matters, we should verify the policy with HPU for **your Fall 2027 application cycle** before choosing test optional.

## COURSE RIGOR

I consider rigor one of the stronger academic portions of your application. Your senior schedule is especially useful because you have not chosen an easy finish to high school. Advanced Organic Chemistry and AP Calculus are relevant to the kind of science and quantitative coursework you will face later. Debate, AP Literature, and AP Government also add communication and writing rigor—which matter more in pharmacy than students sometimes realize.

High Point's undergraduate admissions office says it considers academic rigor in its test-optional review. That makes your schedule strategically important.

## PHARMACY PROGRAM RISK: THIS IS THE PART I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND

High Point describes its pharmacy pathway as a six-year program: two years of pre-pharmacy followed by the four-year professional PharmD curriculum. For high-school students entering HPU's undergraduate Pre-Pharmacy track, the Fred Wilson School of Pharmacy offers an **Early Assurance Admission Pathway**. That sounds very close to the 0–6 experience you want, but I want you to understand the conditions rather than hear the words “early assurance” and mentally translate them into “guaranteed for six years.”

To remain eligible under HPU's published Early Assurance requirements, a student must complete the designated undergraduate pre-pharmacy coursework, maintain a cumulative **3.0 GPA at HPU with no grade below C-**, belong to the HPU Pre-Pharmacy Club, maintain professional behavior, and complete a PharmCAS application by the specified deadline before entering pharmacy school. That makes your first two college years consequential.

The good news is that the standard is concrete. You know what must be protected from the beginning. The risk is that pharmacy is academically demanding, and your current high-school GPA tells me we should take college academic fit seriously. We do not want to choose a school because you love the campus and then discover that the learning environment is not where you perform best.

## YOUR ACTIVITIES POSITION

This is where your application becomes significantly more interesting. Your equestrian commitment should be one of the first things HPU understands about you. You have ridden since age five and currently describe a commitment of roughly 30 hours per week around riding, horse care, training, travel, and showing, in addition to approximately three lessons per week. You ride across hunter/jumper, equitation, eventing, combined training, and show jumping; own a horse; help with substantial horse care; and have worked through fear and confidence setbacks. That is depth.

Your healthcare preparation gives the application a second strong dimension. You have pursued health-science coursework, HOSA, CNA training and testing, Community Health Worker preparation, CPR training, and a health internship that is expected to include Huntsville Hospital exposure.

Then there is your church service. More than 500 cumulative nursery hours, approximately 80% during high school, tells HPU something about consistency and responsibility that a one-day volunteer project never could.

These activities help because HPU says its test-optional review considers community involvement, leadership, extracurricular activities, academic achievement, essays, GPA, and rigor.

## LEADERSHIP

You do not have a long string of high-school officer titles. I would not make that into a larger problem than it is. Your leadership is strongest when we show responsibility: teaching young riders, supervising children around horses, helping at Pine Ridge, serving as a 4-H Treasurer, working with young children at church, caring for your own horse, and taking part in healthcare training.

The application should show what people trusted you to **do**, not apologize for titles you did not collect.

## **YOUR DISTINCTION FACTOR**

What could make you memorable at High Point is not simply “future pharmacy student.” There will be other applicants interested in health professions. The more interesting combination is: A longtime equestrian who spends an enormous amount of time caring for and learning from horses; a student who has deliberately pursued healthcare training; and someone who has repeatedly been trusted with younger children and beginning riders.

There is a common thread of attention, safety, patience, and responsibility running through those experiences. That is distinctive enough without trying to make it sound grander than it is.

## **APPLICATION STORY**

After reading your application, I want HPU to understand something like this:

**You are a hands-on learner who has grown up in environments where preparation, patience, safety, and responsibility matter. Those experiences, from horses to childcare to healthcare, have helped move you toward a career where science is used in practical service to other people.**

That is coherent. It is also broad enough that we do not have to pretend every activity was secretly chosen because you wanted to be a pharmacist.

## **ESSAY RISK**

At High Point, the essay matters. HPU's admissions office explicitly tells applicants that the essay is one of the best ways to communicate who they are beyond courses and activities and says it is the first thing the admissions counselor reviews when getting to know the applicant. So this is not an application where I would send a safe, generic essay.

Your equestrian experience may give us the strongest personal material, particularly the mental blocks, fear, falls, confidence setbacks, and rebuilding that you have already identified.

The essay does **not** need to end with, “And that is why I want to be a pharmacist.” That would probably make the story smaller.

Let the personal essay show HPU who you are. Then let any academic or school-specific writing explain pharmacy.

## **THE “WHY PHARMACY?” RISK**

This is currently one of the largest fixable weaknesses. You have told me that you want pharmacy and are especially interested in compounding, but you have not yet answered the questions about *why* pharmacy interests you or what led you there. That needs to change before we submit anything.

A vague answer about “loving science and wanting to help people” will not do much for you. Your answer needs enough specificity that I can tell you understand the field you are choosing. A pharmacist shadowing or informational interview, particularly with a compounding pharmacist, would be one of the most useful things you could do before the application is finalized.

### **DEMONSTRATED INTEREST AND HPU FIT**

Because High Point is already a leading choice, I want you to behave like a student genuinely evaluating it, not like someone trying to manufacture “demonstrated interest.” Visit if you can. More importantly, visit the **pharmacy program**, not only the beautiful parts of campus.

Talk to a current pharmacy student or faculty member. HPU specifically offers opportunities for prospective students to connect with pharmacy students and faculty. I would ask very specific questions about the Early Assurance pathway, how AP credit affects the two-year pre-pharmacy curriculum, what academic support students receive in chemistry and other gateway sciences, and how often students lose Early Assurance eligibility. I would also ask about compounding exposure, electives, rotations, and independent/community pharmacy opportunities.

### **ONE QUESTION I WOULD ASK HPU ABOUT OUTCOMES**

I want you to evaluate the pharmacy school itself just as carefully as the undergraduate campus evaluates you. HPU reports a 2025 first-attempt NAPLEX pass rate of **73.5%**, compared with a national rate of **86.8%**. It also reports stronger residency results: an 86% PGY-1 match rate in 2025 and a 94.7% PGY-1 rate in 2026. Those numbers are mixed.

I would ask the pharmacy school directly what contributed to the 2025 NAPLEX result, what changes were made afterward, and what more recent indicators show. That is not a “gotcha” question. It is exactly the type of due diligence I would expect from a family considering six years of professional education.

### **EQUESTRIAN FIT: DO NOT ASSUME THIS PART**

High Point can be a terrific school on every other measure and still fail your personal fit test if we cannot solve the horse question. You have said that having an appropriate hunter/jumper or eventing barn within roughly 45 minutes is extremely important and that you intend to bring your personal horse. Therefore, before High Point becomes a binding decision, we need an actual horse plan. Not “there are barns nearby.”

We need to know where your horse could board, whether the facility fits your discipline and training level, what transportation would look like, what freshman vehicle rules mean for you, the real commute, monthly cost, veterinary/farrier access, lesson options, and whether the time commitment is realistic alongside pre-pharmacy. For you, that is part of academic fit because riding will continue to occupy a significant amount of your weekly life.

## RECOMMENDATION STRATEGY

HPU currently asks for one recommendation from either a counselor or teacher. I would choose someone who can strengthen the part of the application that the numbers do not fully explain.

A science or health-science teacher who has seen you work through difficult material could be particularly useful. The best letter would include examples of how you respond when material is challenging, how you participate, how you improve, and whether the teacher sees the maturity required for a health-science pathway.

I would not use your former IEA connection. You have explicitly indicated that you no longer participate and do not want unnecessary interaction there. We have other people and experiences that fit your current application better.

## APPLICATION TIMING

For you, my current recommendation is **High Point Early Action by November 15, 2026**. HPU's Fall 2027 Early Action deadline is November 15, and the university states that EA is nonbinding and provides priority consideration for scholarships.

I prefer EA to Early Decision for you right now. Why?

Because there are still important things we do not know: your complete financial picture, final horse arrangement, how the pharmacy pathway feels after a serious department visit, and how High Point compares with a true 0–6 option such as URI.

If you visit, fully investigate the program, confirm the horse situation, understand the finances, and reach the point where you would choose HPU over every other offer regardless, then binding Early Decision can be reconsidered. But I would not use ED simply as an admissions tactic.

## SCHOLARSHIP RISK

I would separate “Can I get into High Point?” from “How much merit money will High Point give me?” Your current profile is more competitive for admission than it is likely to be for the university's highest academic merit awards. That does not mean you will receive no merit aid. It means I would not build the family's affordability plan around receiving a top scholarship unless HPU gives us evidence that your profile is competitive for it.

High Point's current scholarship information says full consideration for its Presidential and High Point Scholars programs requires an admission application by November 15. That is another reason I want the EA application ready on time.

## WHAT HELPS YOU MOST

Your senior-year rigor helps. Your unusually deep equestrian commitment helps. Your healthcare preparation helps because it makes pre-pharmacy feel intentional. Your sustained church service helps. Your experience teaching and caring for younger children helps. Your ability to present a

coherent story around responsibility, practical learning, persistence, and care can help significantly if we execute the application well.

## **WHAT CREATES THE MOST RISK**

The 3.3 weighted GPA is the largest current academic concern because we still do not know your unweighted GPA or grade pattern. Your 26 ACT is not a major weakness at HPU, but it is not a differentiator either. Your honors section is limited. Your “why pharmacy” story is currently underdeveloped. Several healthcare credentials and activity details still require verification. And there is a risk that your family could think “six-year program” means your place in the PharmD is completely unconditional from high school. It is not. HPU's Early Assurance pathway has defined undergraduate requirements that you must continue meeting.

## **WHAT I WOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT**

I would not worry about adding another school club. I would not worry that you stopped IEA. I would not worry about creating more formal leadership titles during the final stretch of high school. And I would not automatically worry about retaking the ACT solely to move from a 26 to something slightly higher.

If we discover a specific scholarship threshold or admission reason that changes the value of testing, we can reconsider. Otherwise, your time may produce a larger return through strong senior grades, excellent applications, and meaningful pharmacy exploration.

## **PRIORITY 1 – DO THIS FIRST**

Get the official academic information. I want the transcript, unweighted GPA if Huntsville High calculates one, and the exact grades in your major math and science courses. That will let us make the final HPU testing decision and refine this risk category. At the same time, answer the pharmacy questions we still do not have: Why pharmacy? Why compounding? What have you seen that makes you believe this work suits you?

## **PRIORITY 2 – STRENGTHEN THE APPLICATION**

Verify your CNA credential, Community Health Worker credential, and health-internship details. Finalize accurate Common App hours and responsibilities. Elevate the church nursery involvement because we now know its true scale. Develop the personal essay around an experience that tells HPU something it cannot learn from your résumé. If possible, have a substantive conversation with or shadow a pharmacist before finalizing your pharmacy-related writing.

## **PRIORITY 3 – POLISH AND POSITION**

Submit a clean Early Action application by November 15. Make sure the activities section shows depth instead of reading like a list. Do not repeat the same pharmacy message in the essay, activities section, and every short answer. Use each part of the application for a different job: academics establish readiness; activities establish responsibility and depth; the personal essay establishes character; pharmacy-specific content establishes direction.

## WHAT COULD LOWER YOUR RISK BEFORE SUBMISSION

A stronger-than-expected unweighted GPA would help. A clear upward grade trend would help. Strong senior grades, especially in Advanced Organic Chemistry and AP Calculus, would help. A highly specific, human essay would help. Verified CNA status and meaningful healthcare internship details would strengthen the credibility of the health-science portion of the application. A thoughtful explanation of why compounding/pharmacy interests you would improve academic fit.

## WHAT COULD INCREASE YOUR RISK

Weak first-semester senior grades would concern me. Dropping the rigorous courses that currently support your pharmacy story could weaken the academic presentation. A generic essay would waste an opportunity at a school that explicitly values the essay. Missing the November 15 Early Action/scholarship-priority timing would remove a strategic advantage. And failing to research the Early Assurance requirements could lead to choosing HPU for a pathway that you did not fully understand.

## HOW I WOULD POSITION YOUR HIGH POINT APPLICATION

I would lead with **depth, responsibility, and direction**. Equestrian involvement should be prominent because it is probably the single largest commitment in your life. Healthcare preparation should be prominent because it establishes that pharmacy is not a random intended major. Church nursery service and Pine Ridge should be more visible than their titles initially suggest because they establish trust, patience, teaching, and responsibility for others. Your essay should reveal the person underneath all of those activities. And your senior academic schedule should be allowed to do some heavy lifting on the academic side.

## QUICK CONTEXT FOR YOUR OTHER CURRENT SCHOOLS

**University of Rhode Island:** URI is probably the strongest pure program match because it offers true direct-entry 0–6 PharmD admission. It is also more academically risky for you. URI's current overall admitted profile reports a 3.7–4.1 GPA and 27–32 ACT middle 50%, and the university separately says direct PharmD admission is competitive and strong applicants generally show B-or-better performance in science and math. I currently view URI PharmD as a **moderate-high to high admissions risk**, pending your transcript.

**UNC-Chapel Hill:** This is a **very high-risk/high-reach application** for your current academic profile, and it does not give you the direct high-school-to-PharmD structure you prefer. UNC's PharmD requires undergraduate prerequisite work before professional admission. I would apply only because you genuinely want UNC, not because it is the best pharmacy-pathway match.

**University of Delaware:** Delaware's current general admitted profile is 3.68–4.22 GPA and 28–32 ACT, making your current academic position below its published middle range. UD is test optional. It can prepare students for a later PharmD through undergraduate health/science pathways, but it is not equivalent to HPU's early-assurance route or URI's direct 0–6 structure. I would currently treat Delaware as a **reachier target**, with program-alignment questions still to resolve.

## FINAL A2 ACHIEVE ASSESSMENT

High Point is not a dream-school application that I think you should send simply to “see what happens.” It is a real option. Your 26 ACT is close to HPU's current average. Your academic rigor is meaningful. Your activities have depth. Your healthcare preparation supports your intended direction. And the university's pre-pharmacy/Early Assurance structure fits what you say you want better than several schools currently on your list. The 3.3 weighted GPA prevents me from calling High Point low risk, particularly until I see your unweighted GPA and transcript. That is why I am staying at **MODERATE RISK**.

But this is the kind of moderate-risk application where execution matters. A strong senior semester, accurate activity presentation, a thoughtful essay, a real explanation of why pharmacy interests you, and a well-timed Early Action application can all improve the position you are in today.

I would keep High Point very much in play. I would also investigate it much more seriously than simply asking, “Can I get in?” We need to know whether you can get in, whether the pharmacy pathway is the right one, whether the professional outcomes satisfy you, whether the finances work, and whether your horse can realistically remain part of your life there. If those pieces line up, High Point has the potential to be one of the better overall fits on your current list.