

Academic Advising and Pre-Pharmacy Objective

Each student has an opportunity to be advised by a Pre-Health Advisor in the Office of Academic Advising. Call (541) 346-3211 to schedule an appointment. Please see your Academic Advisor on a regular basis to confirm you are on track for your degree and pharmacy school admission.

In order for the Pre-Health Advisors to communicate directly to you and your interests, it is highly recommended to declare a Pre-Pharmacy Professional Objective. To do so, email health@uoregon.edu with your name and UO ID number, or fill out a form in the OAA.

You are also encouraged to sign up for the Pre-Health mailing list, which provides students with timely announcements and a monthly newsletter. OAA also has a facebook page, located at www.facebook.com/uo.prehealthadvising, which is where more health information can be found.

Undergraduate Requirements for Pharmacy School

General Requirements

Many pharmacy schools will admit students without a bachelors degree, with the agreement that pharmacy students must complete one prior to their third professional year. Some pharmacy schools require a bachelors. All students are urged to plan an academic program leading toward a bachelors degree.

Specific Course Requirements

Admission requirements vary from school to school, however most have very similar course requirements. Students are encouraged to review the Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR) online at www.aacp.org, or go to the individual school websites.

Most pharmacy schools require at least one course (most often a full year) of work in the following areas:

- English Composition
- General (or Inorganic) Chemistry
- Biology
- Micro Biology
- Organic Chemistry
- Calculus
- Economics
- Physics
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Public Speaking
- Social Sciences and Arts and Letters

OSU and Pacific University are the two schools in the state of Oregon that award Pharmacy degrees.

Recommended University of Oregon Curriculum

The minimum requirements for admission to OSU and most other UO schools can be met with the following classes:

- English Composition – WR 122, 122 or 123
- General Chemistry – CH 221, 222, 223 with labs CH 227, 228, 229
OR Honors Chemistry – CH 224H, 225H, 226H with labs CH 237, 238, 239
- Organic Chemistry – CH 331, 335, 336 with labs CH 337, 338
- General Biology – BI 211, 212, 213 or 214
OR Foundations Biology(H) – BI 251, 252, 253
 A Pre-Health Advisor can assist you in determining which biology sequence you should take.
- Calculus – MATH 251 (MATH 111 and 112 are prerequisites to 251. See your placement scores)
- General Physics – PHYS 201, 202, 203 with labs 204, 205, 206
- Anatomy & Physiology – HPHY 321, 322, 323, 324, 325
- Economics – EC 201 or 202
- Statistics – MATH 243

- General Psychology Courses- 201 or 202
- Speech/Communications – CPSY 410
- Cell and Micro Biology – BI 322, and BI 330 with lab BI 331
- CPR Certification PEC 241

Advanced Placement:

Advanced Placement (AP) credits are sometimes accepted for some required courses if such credits appear on an undergraduate transcript. Consult with a Pre-Health Advisor for clarification. All courses listed above should be taken for a grade.

The Pre-Pharmacy Curriculum

First Year

Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
CH 221 + 227 lab	CH 222 + 228 lab	CH 223 + 229 lab
MATH 111	MATH 112	MATH 251
WR 121	BI 211	BI 212
	WR 122 or 123	

Consider:

- Begin Health-Related Experience
- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes
- Major requirements (if a major is chosen)

Second Year

CH 331 + 337 lab	CH 335 + 338 lab	CH 336
BI 214	BI 322	BI 330 + 331 lab
MATH 243	EC 201 -or- EC 202	PSY 201

Consider:

- Continue Health-Related Experience
- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes
- Major requirements
- PEC 241²

Third Year

HPHY 321	HPHY 323	HPHY 325
HPHY 322	HPHY 324	CPSY 410
PHYS 201 + 204 lab	PHYS 202 + 205 lab	PHYS 203 + 206 lab

Consider:

- PCAT prep course
- First week of June - earliest time to apply via PharmCAS
- Continue Major requirements
- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes

Fourth Year

Consider:

- Completion of all University and departmental requirements
- Apply to pharmacy school during the summer prior to senior year
- May need to plan for interviews

¹ This course satisfies OSU's Interpersonal Communication requirement.

² This course is for CPR certification. Course can also be taken through the Red Cross.

This curriculum is not set in stone. Talk to an Advisor for course plans that are right for you.

The Undergraduate Major

The courses described so far consist only of the courses needed to be considered for Pharmacy school, but not as a degree-granting major. According to the American Association of the College of Pharmacy (AACCP), some schools do give preference to students who have earned a bachelor's degree.

Science Majors

Given the pre-pharmacy curriculum, the obvious major is someplace in the sciences: chemistry, biology, biochemistry, human physiology, general science, mathematics, physics and psychology dovetail efficiently with the recommended classes. Many of the requirements of those majors are satisfied with the pre-pharmacy prerequisites. Since major requirements do vary considerably, you should plan your second year in college very carefully in anticipation of a major choice if you have not already committed yourself.

Non-Science Majors

Most pharmacy schools make a point of welcoming non-science majors. Successful pharmacy students come from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, including those who major in English, business, communications, among others. We encourage non-science majors to plan carefully, as many of the pharmacy prerequisites can be taken as electives around a student's major and General Education requirements.

The Major as an Alternative Career

As a pre-pharmacy student, you should face realistically the possibility of not gaining admission to pharmacy school. What will you do if you are not accepted? Another health career? Reapply? Follow other pathways within your major? Don't be surprised if you are asked this often by friends, advisors, and interviewers. It isn't intended to discourage you but to remind you of the realities of pharmacy school application.

Non-Curricular Requirements for Pharmacy School Admission

The following information can be found in the Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR), which can be downloaded from the AACP website.

The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)

The PCAT is a test specifically designed for assessing readiness of a student to begin pharmaceutical education. The test itself is a series of 240 multiple-choice items and two writing topics. The test must be completed in no more than 4 hours (which includes a break halfway through the test).

The six content areas the PCAT measures are an applicant's verbal ability, biology, reading comprehension, quantitative ability, chemistry and a written essay.

Not all pharmacy schools require the PCAT, but about 75% of the pharmacy schools do ask for applicant's PCAT test scores. OSU and Pacific University are two schools that do not require the PCAT.

Reference Letters

Many pharmacy degree programs require one to four letters of recommendations (otherwise called "letters of reference" or "letters of evaluation"). Schools may require you to submit letters from a pharmacist, professor, advisor, or supervisor. You are encouraged to find individuals who can speak to your maturity, dependability, dedication, compassion, communication skills, leadership, and any experience you may have in the field. Check the admission requirements school by school for instructions about letters of recommendations, because some schools ask you to use a school-specific evaluation form in lieu or in addition to the letter from the evaluator, many times signed, and on letterhead.

Official Transcripts

All pharmacy schools require official transcripts from every college you have attended. **Take all required courses graded.**

In general, you should avoid dropping below a full academic load of 15 or 16 credit hours.

Health-related Experience

Pharmacy schools encourage if not require students to have either volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health-related setting. Ongoing work or volunteer opportunities are important factors in the admission process.

The Application Process

There are 119 US based colleges and schools of pharmacy. About two-thirds of all pharmacy colleges in the U.S. participate in the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) for admission. A wealth of knowledge about the application process can be found on the PharmCAS web site, including more about the admissions process and requirements.

Students applying to non-participating schools should contact the individual programs for application materials.

Chances for Admission: Self Evaluation

The best way to assess your chances for gaining admission to medical school begins with a review of selection features.

Admission to pharmacy schools is highly competitive, and more student apply than can be admitted. Early planning and preparation is virtually essential for improving your chances for successful admission. Do not fall into the “trap of the minimums,” as virtually no one with just the minimums gets into pharmacy school. Going above and beyond the minimum admission requirements is a very good thing! Over and over again, admission websites and committees stress the importance of the “whole candidate,” representing your academics, extra-curricular activities, leadership, motivation, experience and character. Above all, there is no guarantee of being accepted.

Even the most qualified candidates may have to apply more than once. The average cum GPA for admitted students is 3.5.

Residence

The likelihood of acceptance is greatest at the public institutions in the state of which you are a resident. Private schools do not preference residents and therefore all applicants are considered.

Academic Record

The GPA is critical in selection. Good grades, by themselves, guarantee nothing. They do indicate a solid performance in the past and can be used to predict a high probability of repeated success in the first two years of the pharmacy school curriculum. It is clear that students with a 3.2 GPA and below are in a high-risk category.

Experience

Grades prove scientific competence; medically allied experience can demonstrate both your commitment and your understanding of health careers. Review opportunities for local experiences at the Office of Academic Advising's website: advising.uoregon.edu/AA_Pages/AA_PreHealth_Opps.html. Don't ignore this important part of your preparation. Pharmacy colleges encourage or require applicants to have volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health related setting.

Minority Students

All U.S. public and private schools are seeking underrepresented minority and other non-traditional applicants. Be sure to contact a Pre-Medical Advisor for information.

International Students

When applying to public schools, international students are considered non-residents. Private schools accept some international students; review the Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR) for recent statistics. Students with permanent residence (green card) status are considered U.S. residents.

Applicants and Admission Statistics for 2010

	OSU	Pacific
Average age of Admission:	24	26
Average Cumulative GPA:	3.50	3.40
Total Applications:	1100	1000
Class Size:	80	98

Of Special Interest

Pharmacy programs are typically 3-4 years in length, awarding the student a Pharm.D. At the end of pharmacy school, students will take the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination) in order to earn their license.

- Nation Average GPA Admitted: 3.5
- Average Salary for May 2010: \$109,380

Pre-Pharmacy Club

The Pre-Pharmacy Club is designed to help students achieve their goals related to any area of the pharmacy field, including but not limited to careers such as pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmaceutical sales representatives. This club is always open to new members who are taking pre-pharmacy courses or anyone who is interested in learning more about this field. The Pre-Pharmacy Club can be contacted via e-mail at prepharm@uoregon.edu.

Websites for more information and which provided material for this booklet include:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
www.aacp.org

The Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

Oregon State University School of Pharmacy
pharmacy.oregonstate.edu

Pacific University School of Pharmacy
www.pacificu.edu/pharmd

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