

Frequently Asked Questions: Pre-Pharmacy

What are some of the strengths of the Auburn pre-health advising program?

Students get individual guidance about course selection, choice of major, and the application process to professional schools from the pre-health advisors in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office. Students receive advice from professionally trained advisors as well as peer advisors who have successfully participated in the program. Students are provided with opportunities to gain clinical experience in their intended professions and to engage in volunteer and leadership activities. Students can schedule mock interviews with an admissions committee member from the Alabama professional schools to get feedback about their applications and chances for acceptance during the spring semester each year. Students can attend the bimonthly meetings of the Pre-Pharmacy Club to learn about trends in the profession, volunteer opportunities, the application process and other relevant topics.

Do Auburn advisors participate in the professional advising organizations such as the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)?

Yes, attending and making presentations at professional meetings sponsored by these organizations allows Auburn advisors to be informed about state and national trends in the health professions.

How can prospective students find out about the quality of Auburn's academic programs?

Prospective students can talk to current pharmacy students, practicing pharmacists, admissions officers of pharmacy schools and other students who have heard about the excellent programs at Auburn.

Are there any scholarships available for pre-health students?

Yes, there are a limited number of scholarships available for highly qualified students. [See Scholarship page.](#)

Is there an active pre-health professions club at Auburn?

Yes, Auburn has a nationally recognized chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a health pre-professional honor society. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings, and speakers address a variety of topics related to the health professions. Members also have opportunities to participate in volunteer and leadership activities sponsored by the organization. The Pre-Pharmacy Club is affiliated with AED and has bimonthly meetings on Monday nights throughout the academic year. Visit the [AED Website](#) for more information.

Why are pre-pharmacy students encouraged to volunteer in various pharmacy settings?

Gaining experience in various clinical settings allows students to confirm their interest in a pharmacy career and provides additional information about all aspects of the pharmacy profession.

How can students learn the admission requirements and acceptance criteria of individual pharmacy schools?

Students can consult the Websites of the individual pharmacy schools. There are links to the schools at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Website (www.aacp.org).

How can students obtain information about the Pharmacy College Admission Test?

Registration packets are available in the COSAM Dean's Office in Room 239 Sciences Center Classrooms Building. Students can also obtain information at www.pcatweb.info.

How do students apply to pharmacy school?

The Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) facilitates application to multiple U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy by completion of a single application. Information is available about PharmCAS at www.pharmacas.org. If the schools to which students are applying do not use PharmCAS, then applicants must apply directly to those schools.

Must applicants have completed all required courses by the time they enter pharmacy school?

Yes, there are no exceptions to this policy.

How can students prepare for the interview that is part of the application process?

Students should learn about the profession of pharmacy and how it is changing by reading, talking with practitioners, and working/volunteering in various health care settings. Meaningful work including involvement with patients is encouraged. Students should explore all career options. Guidance in developing effective interview techniques is provided to AU students by the Career Development Services Office.

Are students required to earn a bachelor's degree prior to beginning pharmacy school?

Although students are not required to earn a degree before attending pharmacy school, many students do. The most common major for these students is Biomedical Sciences.

How long does pharmacy school last?

The Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy is no longer available. The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) degree requires four academic years of professional pharmacy study beyond the pre-pharmacy requirements.