

Path to Pharmacy

Pharmacists are experts who ensure patients have optimal experiences when taking prescribed medications. Pharmacists prepare and dispense prescriptions, ensure patients receive the correct dosages, counsel patients on how to properly use their medications, and help to prevent harmful drug interactions. Though many students interested in pharmacy pursue a major in COSAM, a student can earn a degree in any major and attend pharmacy school if the proper prerequisites are taken.

The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree is offered in various structures and lengths. Some schools require for incoming students to have a bachelor's degree while others have accelerated programs which allow students to begin the professional phase of pharmacy school after successfully completing all pre-pharmacy coursework. Students should research the schools that interest them to determine which programs are offered.

In addition to prerequisite courses and GPA requirements, pharmacy schools may also consider leadership and research experience, shadowing opportunities, and honors and awards received. Therefore, it is important for students to shadow pharmacists, participate in community service activities, and develop leadership skills.

After completing pharmacy school, graduates must pass a state board of pharmacy licensure examination to practice in the United States. Licensed pharmacists could also seek board certification by choosing to specialize in a certain area of practice and demonstrating their expertise.

Preparation Checklist

- Research programs that interest you.
- Shadow a pharmacist.
- Volunteer with an organization that you like.
- Gain clinical experience.
- Develop core competencies.
- Get involved on campus.
- Take prerequisite courses.
- Maintain a strong overall and science GPA.
- Conduct undergraduate research.



Common Prerequisites

- General Biology I & II with Labs
- General Chemistry I & II with Labs
- Organic Chemistry I & II with Labs
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II with Labs
- Calculus & Statistics
- Biochemistry
- Physics I
- English Composition



Metrics

- Minimum Prerequisite GPA: 2.5
- Minimum Overall GPA: 2.5



Helpful Organizations

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)
- American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)