



## PRE-PHARMACY INFORMATION SUMMARY

Room 206, Building 44, 801-581-5744, <http://ppa.utah.edu>

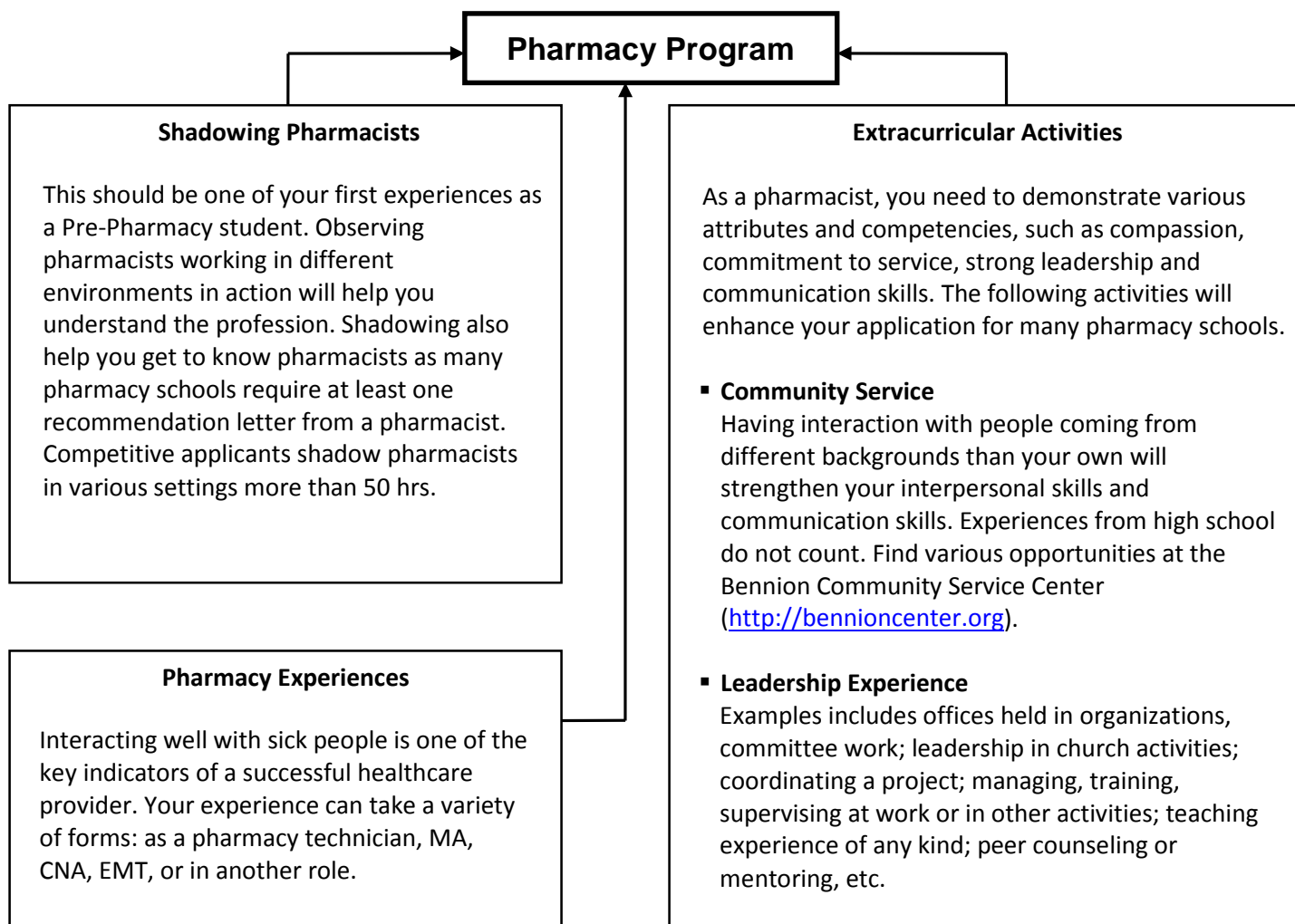
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Preparation for pharmacy school involves curricular and extracurricular experiences which demonstrate communication, leadership, community service, research, and familiarity with the pharmaceutical profession. Any major is appropriate. Study something you love!

### ❖ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



### Things to Remember

- Make sure you have contact information for supervisors and health professionals you shadow or work with, in case you need to have them write recommendation letters. Even if you discontinue an activity, try to keep an open relationship with them.
- Keep a record of all hours of service and experiences. Writing your reflections in a journal will be helpful when you write a personal statement.
- You can download the **PreHealth Planner Spread Sheet** from [our website](http://our website); you will find it under Available Downloads.

### ❖ USEFUL WEBSITES

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (<http://www.aacp.org>)

- The University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP) (<http://pharmacy.utah.edu/>)
- The University of Utah Pharmacy Advisor : 801-581-5384, by email: [PharmD.Admissions@pharm.utah.edu](mailto:PharmD.Admissions@pharm.utah.edu)
- Pre-Pharmacy Student Club Email: [uofuprepharmclub@gmail.com](mailto:uofuprepharmclub@gmail.com)
- Roseman University Pharmacy Program (<http://www.roseman.edu/explore-our-colleges/college-of-pharmacy/doctor-of-pharmacy>)
- List of Pharmacy Technician License Programs ([http://dopl.utah.gov/forms/pharmacy\\_tech\\_programs.pdf](http://dopl.utah.gov/forms/pharmacy_tech_programs.pdf))

## ❖ APPLICATION PROCESS

Your application process begins in spring or summer before you hope to begin your pharmacy program if you have completed the necessary requirements. Pharmacy programs admit students once a year for fall matriculation. You may need to take the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test) or complete a bachelor's degree, or both, depending on each program's requirements.

	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept
PCAT	Registration opens in March for July, Sept. & Jan. dates, and Oct. for Oct. & Nov. dates. Scores are available within 3-4 weeks after the exam.																
Recom. Letters	Request letters & get contact info. from letter writers																
Application	PharmCAS available online during the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of July. <b>UUCP's deadline is Dec. 1.</b>																
	Interviews ( <b>UUCP interviews in Jan.</b> )																
	Acceptance Notifications																
Financial Aid	Priority filing for federal financial aid																
Program starts																UUCP starts in Aug.	

## ❖ PCAT and the Bachelor's Degree

Many US pharmacy programs require the **PCAT**, though what constitutes a competitive score varies widely, and according to program. The University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP) requires PCAT for all applications.

- The PCAT is administered in July, September, October or November and January. Taking the exam by spring will enable you to apply earlier. November is the last PCAT accepted by most schools for the following fall's entering class.
- It usually takes about 3-5 weeks to get the result, but an expedited score is available for an additional fee.
- It is recommended PCAT be taken within a year of your planned application, but the score is good for 5 years.
- The PCAT is divided into seven sections (5 multiple choice sections, 2 writing components) which are scored on a scale of 200-600 (Median: 400, 430 as 90%): Verbal Ability, Biology, Chemistry, Quantitative Ability, Reading Comprehension, Writing Language, and Writing Problem Solving.
- The exam may be repeated, but the best strategy is to prepare thoroughly and take the PCAT once. For more information about the PCAT, visit <http://pcatweb.info/>.
- *UUCP: PCAT score will be taken into consideration as a whole with a student's application. The minimum score in the past is 65, but the average score has been 85.*

Most pharmacy schools now require a bachelor's degree before a student can matriculate to a pharmacy school, regardless of PCAT status. You must check with each pharm school for details on the specifics of their program.

## ❖ PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service)

Most Pharmacy programs are part of **PharmCAS**, which is available at [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org).

- Application requirements include transcripts, personal background information, extracurricular experiences (20 activities + 24 work experiences, 175 character limits per entry), personal statement (2400 character limit), and fees.
- Because many schools use a “rolling” admission process (they begin reviewing applications and admitting before deadlines), it will enhance your chances if you **submit your application early** no matter when you take the PCAT.
- Completing the application will take at least 1 week; most students take several weeks. Make sure you will have plenty of time to fill out the application, and to have somebody **review** your entire application before you submit.

To help us advise other students, we would appreciate it if you would release your information to the Health Professions Advisor. This information will always be kept confidential.

### ▪ Letters of Recommendation

Once a pharmacy school receives your initial application, they will usually request supplementary material, including **Letters of Recommendation**. To facilitate this, most students use the free PharmCAS Letter Service.

#### Types of letters you need

Generally, you will need one letter from each of the following people. (The number and types of letters vary depending on each program. PharmCAS limits applicants to a maximum of 3 letters:

1. **Pharmacist, supervisor, or other healthcare professional**
2. **Science Professor (BCPM)**

## ❖ Pre-Pharmacy Curriculum

### Policies

<b>CLEP Credit, Correspondence Study &amp; AP Credits &amp; IB courses</b>	You are required to report all of the courses and credit hours that you earned. However, <b>those credits may not be acceptable as part of the prerequisite courses</b> . Check each program’s requirements section online. For UUCP requirements, see the course guide in page 4.
<b>Online Courses</b>	Depend on programs. Ask schools you consider applying to directly.
<b>Withdrawals</b>	W’s should be used only for non-academic emergencies, though W’s will not affect GPA.
<b>Repeats</b>	PharmCAS will calculate all grades including repeated courses into your GPA. <i>At UUCP, the second grade will be calculated in the GPA unless the second grade is C- or lower, regardless of how many additional times students retake the course.</i>
<b>Minimum Grade Requirement</b>	Most schools set a minimum grade requirement for prerequisite courses of C or better.
<b>Grade Expiration</b>	Many programs require certain prerequisite courses to be completed within 5 to 7 years ( <b>10 years for UUCP</b> ) before matriculation to a pharmacy school. Check each program’s requirements section for more information.
<b>Community College Courses</b>	While many schools accept prerequisite courses taken at a 2 year community college, students are encouraged to take some courses at a 4 year institution.

### ❖ GPA

Pharmacy programs have a minimum overall GPA requirements of 2.5 - 3.0; however, competitive applicants who have been admitted to pharmacy programs will generally have 3.5 or higher overall average GPA, depending on the program. Many pharmacy programs also look at prerequisite GPA (or sometimes called pre-professional GPA) separately.

**UUCP** requires minimum overall GPA of 2.75 (a GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred), and 2.8 with C or better grades in all of the prerequisite courses. The average GPA among accepted students with bachelor’s degree is 3.5 for overall, and 3.5 for prerequisite courses.

# PrePharmacy Science Course Guide<sup>1</sup>

Shading indicates most commonly required by pharmacy schools

\*=can be taken @ SLCC

BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	MATH <sup>2</sup>	PHYSICS	
		<b>990 (0) Pre-Algebra</b>	➤ Physics has 2 options. Consult with both your major advisor and a PPA advisor to choose the right sequence.	
		<b>1010 (4) Intermediate Algebra</b>		
<b>*1210 (4)</b> <b>Principles of Biology</b> Prereq for most bio classes Biol 1610@SLCC		<b>*1050 (4) &amp; *1060 (3)</b> <b>College Algebra &amp; Trig</b> May be waived by AP/ACT or SAT Can be substituted by Math 1080 (5)		
<b>2325 (4)</b> <b>Human Anatomy</b> (Prereq: Biol 1210) <b>UUCP requirement</b>	<b>*1210 (4)</b> <b>1215 (1)</b> <b>Gen Chem 1+ Lab</b> (Prereq: Math 1050) <b>UUCP requirement</b> (Waived by AP Chem with score 4 for UUCP)	<b>1070 (3)</b> <b>Stats</b> (Prereq: Math 1010) PSYC 3000 or FCS 3210 or MATH 1040 or any other stats can be accepted. <b>UUCP requirement</b>		
<b>2420 (4)</b> <b>Human Physiology</b> (Prereq: Biol 1210 & Chem 1210) <b>UUCP requirement</b>	<b>*1220 (4)</b> <b>1225 (1)</b> <b>Gen Chem 2 + Lab</b> <b>UUCP requirement</b> (Waived by AP Chem with score 5 for UUCP)	<b>1210 (4)</b> <b>Calculus 1</b> (Prereq: 1050 & 1060 or 1080) <b>UUCP requirement</b> (Waived by AP Calc AB or BC with score 4 for UUCP)	<b>2010 (4)</b> <b>2015 (1)</b> <b>Gen. Physics1 +Lab</b> (Prereq: Math 1060) <b>UUCP requirement</b> (Waived by AP PHYS-A/B with score 4 for UUCP)	<b>2210 (4)</b> <b>2015 (1)</b> <b>for Scientists &amp; Engineers 1 + Lab</b> (Prereq: Math 1210)
<b>PATH 3100 (3)</b> <b>Medical Microbiology</b> <b>UUCP requirement</b>	<b>2310 (4)</b> <b>2315 (2)</b> <b>O-Chem 1 + Lab</b> <b>UUCP requirement</b>	<b>1220 (4)</b> <b>Calculus 2</b> (Prereq: Math 1210) <b>UUCP requirement</b> (Waived by AP Calc BC with score 5 for UUCP)	<b>2020 (4)</b> <b>2025 (1)</b> <b>Gen. Physics2 +Lab</b>	<b>2220 (4)</b> <b>2025 (1)</b> <b>for Scientists &amp; Engineers 2 + Lab</b>
	<b>2320 (4)</b> <b>2325 (2)</b> <b>O-Chem 2 + Lab</b> <b>UUCP requirement</b>			

## < Additional Non-Science Courses >

- 2 semesters of English Composition, Social Behavioral Science such as Psychology, and Communication courses may be required by some pharmacy schools.
- UUCP requires Professional/Technical Writing (WRTG 3015) which can be substituted with Public Speaking (COMM 1020).

**!!No more than 3 of the Pre-Pharmacy required courses may be outstanding, or in progress on January 1 of the year you are applying for UUCP!!**

## Notes

- 1) This guide is designed for students preparing to apply to a range of pharmacy schools. Some courses may not be required by all schools; some schools may require additional courses not on this list.
- 2) In order to take the proper math class, you must have ACT, SAT or math placement test scores, or successfully pass a prerequisite math course.

Optional preparatory courses are available for Math, Chemistry and Physics:

- **MATH 10 Math Boot Camp for Intermediate Algebra** (1 week workshop offered the week before fall and spring semesters begin.)
- **MATH 15 Math Boot Camp for Precalculus** (1 week review workshop offered the week before fall and spring semesters begin.)
- **CHEM 10 Chemistry Boot Camp for General Chemistry** (1.5 hrs /day x 5days x 2wks)
- **CHEM 1200 (3) Prep for College Chemistry** (Usually offered online. Check class schedule for more information)
- **CHEM 1208 (1) Intro to Periodic Table** (Offered online between semesters for 2 weeks.)
- **CHEM 2308 (1) Intro to O Chem** (Offered online between semesters for 2 weeks.)
- **PHYS 1500 (3) Prep for College Physics** (Offered once a year. Check class schedule for more information)

## University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP)

Website: [www.pharmacy.utah.edu](http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu)

Admissions: [PharmD.Admissions@pharm.utah.edu](mailto:PharmD.Admissions@pharm.utah.edu)

UUCP is a four year program, where students can earn Pharm D degree by completion of the program. PharmD/Ph.D program is also available. It is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> out of 225 pharmacy schools in the US.

### • UUCP Admissions

UUCP will always take the second grade when applicants retake prerequisite courses. For example, a course is taken three times; 1<sup>st</sup> attempt =D, 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt = C-, and 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt = B. The admissions committee will note that the prerequisite requirement was fulfilled by the third attempt (B grade). However, they will use the second attempt (C- grade) when they calculating the prerequisite GPA.

- UUCP has over 300 applicants and accepts only 60 students each fall. There is no preference on residents vs. non-residents at this time.
- 50% of accepted students do NOT have a bachelor's degree; this includes early admission students.
- Average of 5-8 international students are accepted per year.
- Students who have exceptional profile may be interviewed in December whereas normal interview will usually happen in January.

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### • Program Highlights

- UUCP offers 1:1 student-faculty ratio.
- Mentoring program called "Student Adoption Program" is also available where upperclassmen mentor lowerclassmen.
- During the fourth year of Pharmacy program, students will go through six rotations (4 mandatory and 2 elective). UUCP offers rotations in Thailand and rural areas. For more information about rotations, visit [www.pharmacy.utah.edu](http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu).
- Graduates of UUCP has 100% job placement rate within 6 months of graduation from the program.
- About 50% of the students pursue two years of residency education for specialization after graduation.
- Many research opportunities are also available for those who are interested in research.

### • Pharm D/Ph.D program

Pharm D/Ph.D program has total of six years (4 years of Pharm D program + 2-3 years of Ph.D). During the first year in Pharm D program, students will have research opportunities which will allow them to decide their research area. This program also takes 1-2 transfer students every year.