ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Academic preparation for Pharmacy school requires a completion of a set of prerequisite classes, usually science, which vary from school to school. The most common classes are outlined on the final page of this Summary. Many, but not all, Pharmacy schools also require a Bachelor’s degree in order to matriculate. For your degree, any major is appropriate. There is no preference in this regard, so study something you love!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Preparation for Pharmacy school involves engaging in experiences that develop and demonstrate skills in communication, leadership, community service, and familiarity with the profession. What you do outside of class is as important as what you do in class so don’t neglect these activities. Keep in mind that these activities complement your coursework, but will not compensate for low grades. Both are important!

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; you will find it under Available Downloads.
**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

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<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCAT</td>
<td>Registration opens in March for July, Sept. &amp; Jan. dates, and Oct. for Oct. &amp; Nov. dates. Scores are available within 3-4 weeks after the exam.</td>
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<td>Recom. Letters</td>
<td>Request letters &amp; get contact info. from letter writers.</td>
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<td>Application</td>
<td>PharmCAS available online during the 1st week of July. <strong>UUCP’s deadlines:</strong> Early Assurance Oct. 3, Priority Admission Dec. 1, Late Admission Feb. 1</td>
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<td>Interviews (UUCP interviews in Jan.)</td>
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<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>Priority filing for federal financial aid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UUCP starts in Aug.</td>
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**PCAT**

Many US pharmacy programs require the **PCAT**, though what constitutes a competitive score varies widely between programs. You must check with each pharmacy school for details on the specifics of their program.

- 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 6 multiple choice sections and 1 essay. The multiple choice sections include: Verbal Ability, Biology, Chemistry, Quantitative Ability, and Reading Comprehension. The score is reported as a scaled score between 200-600 and as a percentile between 1-99%. The essay will test problem solving skills, and skills dealing with conventions of language, and will be given a score from 1-6.
- 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/](http://pcatweb.info/).

**The University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP)** Applicants that apply without a bachelor’s degree are required to take the PCAT for the 2019-2020 cycle. There is no minimum PCAT score required, although it will be reviewed as a whole with the student’s application. Applicants that have received their bachelor’s degree can use that degree in place of the PCAT score.

**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.

**PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service)**

Most of the PharmD programs in the US 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. Professor (Usually Science—BCPM)

PRE-PHARMACY GENERAL POLICIES REGARDING COURSEWORK

| CLEP Credit, Correspondence Study & AP Credits & IB courses | You are required to report all of the courses and credit hours that you earned. However, **those credits may not be acceptable as part of the prerequisite courses**. Check each program’s requirements section online. For UUCP requirements, see the course guide in page 4. |
| Online Courses | Depend on programs. Ask schools you consider applying to directly. |
| Community College Courses | 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. |
| Withdrawals | W’s should be used only for non-academic emergencies, though W’s will not affect GPA. |
| Repeats | PharmCAS will calculate all grades including repeated courses into your GPA. 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. |
| Minimum Grade Requirement | Most schools set a minimum grade requirement for prerequisite courses of C or better. |
| GPA | Minimum requirements for Total GPA range from 2.5 - 3.0. Many pharmacy programs also look at prerequisite GPA separately. However **competitive applicants** admitted to Pharmacy programs generally have 3.5 or higher Total GPA depending on the program. **UUCP** requires a minimum Total GPA of 3.0, and a prerequisite GPA of 2.8 with a C or higher in all prerequisites. Average Total GPA for admitted applicants is usually around 3.5. **Roseman** requires a minimum Total GPA of 2.8, and a C or higher in all science and math prerequisites, and a grade of B or higher in English Composition I and Speech. |
| Grade Expiration | Many programs require certain prerequisite courses to be completed within 5 to 7 years (10 years for UUCP) before matriculation to a pharmacy school. Check each program’s requirements section for more information. |

USEFUL WEBSITES

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ([http://www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org))
- The University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP) ([http://pharmacy.utah.edu/](http://pharmacy.utah.edu/))
- The University of Utah Pharmacy Advisor, PharmD.Admissions@pharm.utah.edu, 801-581-5384
- Pre-Pharmacy Student Club Email: uofuprepharmclub@gmail.com
- Roseman University Pharmacy Program [http://pharmacy.roseman.edu/](http://pharmacy.roseman.edu/).
- List of Pharmacy Technician License Programs ([http://dopl.utah.gov/forms/pharmacy_tech_programs.pdf](http://dopl.utah.gov/forms/pharmacy_tech_programs.pdf))
PrePharmacy Science Course Guide

This guide is designed for applying to a range of Pharmacy schools. It is not a comprehensive list. Requirements will vary by school. Shading indicates the classes most commonly required by Pharmacy schools. See a PPA advisor for more information.

[Classes with * may be taken at SLCC. However, not all Pharmacy schools accept prerequisites from 2 year schools]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOLOGY</th>
<th>CHEMISTRY</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>PHYSICS</th>
<th>NON-SCIENCE</th>
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| *1610 (3) Fundamentals of Bio I  
Prereq for most Bio courses  
Formerly BIOL 1210 | | | | |
| 2325 (4) Human Anatomy  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610)  
UUCP requirement | | | | |
| 2420 (4) Human Physiology  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610, CHEM 1210)  
UUCP requirement | | | | |
| PATH 3100 (3) Medical Microbiology  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610, BIOL 2020, CHEM 1210) | | | | |
| 3210 (3) Microbiology  
(Prereq: BIOL 1610, BIOL 2020, CHEM 1210) | | | | |

**UUCP—No more than 3 of the PrePharmacy required courses may be outstanding or in progress on January 1 of the year you are applying**