PRE-PHARMACY INFORMATION SUMMARY

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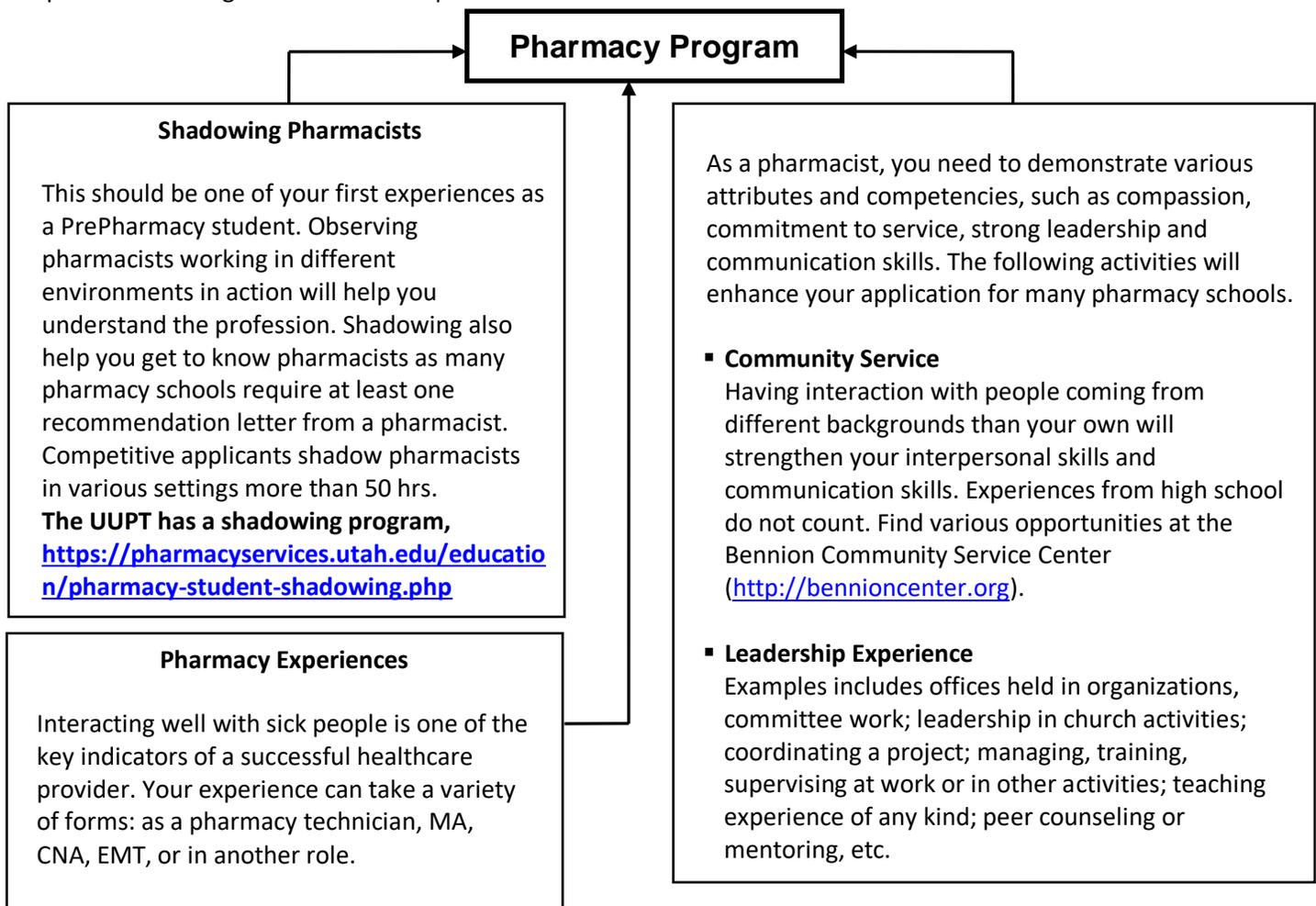Joseph Witzke, jwitzke@advising.utah.edu

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❖ 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!

Pharmacy Program

Shadowing Pharmacists

This should be one of your first experiences as a PrePharmacy student. Observing pharmacists working in different environments in action will help you understand the profession. Shadowing also help you get to know pharmacists as many pharmacy schools require at least one recommendation letter from a pharmacist. Competitive applicants shadow pharmacists in various settings more than 50 hrs.
The UUPT has a shadowing program, https://pharmacyservices.utah.edu/education/pharmacy-student-shadowing.php

Pharmacy Experiences

Interacting well with sick people is one of the key indicators of a successful healthcare provider. Your experience can take a variety of forms: as a pharmacy technician, MA, CNA, EMT, or in another role.

As a pharmacist, you need to demonstrate various attributes and competencies, such as compassion, commitment to service, strong leadership and communication skills. The following activities will enhance your application for many pharmacy schools.

- **Community Service**
  Having interaction with people coming from different backgrounds than your own will strengthen your interpersonal skills and communication skills. Experiences from high school do not count. Find various opportunities at the Bennion Community Service Center (http://bennioncenter.org).

- **Leadership Experience**
  Examples includes offices held in organizations, committee work; leadership in church activities; coordinating a project; managing, training, supervising at work or in other activities; teaching experience of any kind; peer counseling or mentoring, etc.

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

	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 1st week of July. **UUCP's deadlines: Early Assurance Oct. 3, Priority Admission Dec. 1, Late Admission Feb. 1**																
					Interviews (**UUCP interviews in Jan.**)												
							Acceptance Notifications										
Financial Aid					Priority filing for federal financial aid												
Program starts																**UUCP starts in Aug.**	

❖ 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/.

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**.

- 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)
- The University of Utah College of Pharmacy (UUCP) (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/.
- List of Pharmacy Technician License Programs (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 advisors for more information.

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

BIOLOGY		CHEMISTRY	MATH	PHYSICS		NON-SCIENCE
*1610 (4) **Fundamentals of Bio I** Prereq for most Bio courses Formerly **BIOL 1210**		OPTIONAL preparatory courses for CHEM, MATH, and PHYS: • *MATH 10 Math Boot Camp for Intermediate Algebra* • *MATH 15 Math Boot Camp for Pre-Calculus* • *CHEM 10 Chemistry Boot Camp for General Chemistry* • *CHEM 1200 (3) Prep for College Chemistry* • *CHEM 1208 (1) Intro to Periodic Table* • *CHEM 2308 (1) Intro to O-Chem* ***NOTE:** 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*				**2 semesters of English Composition** **(WRTG 2010 & CW)**
2325 (4) **Human Anatomy** (Recom Prereq: BIOL 1610) **UUCP requirement**			***1050 (4) &** ***1060 (3)** **College Algebra & Trig** May be waived by AP, ACT or SAT Can be substituted with MATH 1080 (5)	Physics has 2 options. Consult with both your major advisor and a PPA advisor to choose the right sequence.		
2420 (4) **Human Physiology** (Prereq: BIOL 1610, CHEM 1210) **UUCP requirement**		***1210 (4)** **Gen Chem 1** **1215 (1)** **Lab** (Prereq: MATH 1050) **UUCP requirement** (Waived by AP Chem Score of 4 for UUCP)	**1070 (3)** **Statistics** (Prereq: B or higher in MATH 0980, C or higher in MATH 1010 or 1030) PSYC 3000 or FCS 3210 or other stats accepted. (Waived by AP Stats score of 4 for UUCP) **UUCP requirement**	**2010 (4)** **Gen. Physics 1** **2015 (1)** **Lab** (Prereq: MATH 1060) **UUCP req.** (Waived by AP PHYS C-score of 4 for UUCP)	**2210 (4)** **for Scientists & Engineers 1** **2015 (1)** **Lab** (Prereq: MATH 1210)	**Social and Behavior Science** **(BF)**
						Humanities **(HF)**
PATH 3100 (3) **Medical Microbiology**	**3210 (3)** **Microbiology** (Prereq: BIOL 1610, BIOL 2020, CHEM 1210)	***1220 (4)** **Gen Chem 2** **1225 (1)** **Lab** **UUCP requirement** (Waived by AP Chem with score of 5 for UUCP)	**1210 (4)** **Calculus 1** (Prereq: MATH 1050 & 1060 or 1080) **UUCP requirement** (Waived by AP Calc AB or BC score of 4 for UUCP)	**2020 (4)** **Gen. Physics 2** **2025 (1)** **Lab**	**2220 (4)** **for Scientists & Engineers 2** **2025 (1)** **Lab** (Prereq: PHYCS 2210, MATH 1220)	**Communication** UUCP required on of the following
^ ^ One of these is required by UUCP		**2310 (4)** **O-Chem 1** **2315 (2)** **Lab** **UUCP req.**	**1220 (4)** **Calculus 2** (Prereq: MATH 1210) Required by some programs			**Prof/Tech Writing** **WRTG 3015 (3)** (Prereq. WRTG 2010) **OR**
		2320 (4) **O-Chem 2** **2325 (2)** **Lab** **UUCP req.**				**Public Speaking** **COMM 1020 (3)**

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