

# Pharmacy Information

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## CAREER DESCRIPTION

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health care practitioners, as well as monitor patient health. They advise physicians and other health care practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications. Pharmacists must understand the use, clinical effects, and composition of drugs; including their chemical, biological, psychological, and physical properties. They protect the public by ensuring drug purity and strength. The goal of pharmacy care is to maximize positive health care outcomes and improve and extend patients' quality of life with minimum risk. Most pharmacists work in a community setting, such as a retail drug store, hospital, or clinic.

Pharmacists in health care facilities dispense medications and advise the medical staff on the selection and effects of drugs. They also plan, monitor, and evaluate drug regimens. Pharmacists are responsible for the accuracy of every prescription that is filled.

## ACADEMIC FACTORS FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL ADMISSION

- **Major:** Students interested in attending a pharmacy program may choose any major while at BYU. We recommend that you choose a major you like and incorporate the prerequisite courses into your schedule.
- **GPA:** Both your cumulative GPA and science GPA (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) are an important part of your application.
- **Test:** Some schools require the PCAT. Refer to individual school website to see if they require this exam.

## NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL ADMISSION

Pharmacy schools are looking for well-rounded candidates who have achieved excellence not only in the classroom, but also in other areas like leadership and community service. Because the requirements and the relative weight of these factors often vary between schools, it is recommended that prospective students select a list of schools to tentatively prepare and plan for by following their respective requirements.

- **Rolling Admissions:** PharmCAS, the centralized application service for pharmacy schools, opens in July. Due to rolling admissions it is very important to submit your application as close to the opening date as possible. Often students who are otherwise qualified are not accepted solely due to the fact that there were no more available seats because the student applied too late.
- **Clinical Experience:** Clinical experience with a pharmacist is vital when applying to a pharmacy program. You should become acquainted with a few pharmacists and shadow or work as a pharmacy tech to gain firsthand insight into what pharmacists do on a daily basis. To be competitive, try to obtain at least 60 total shadowing hours in at least two different settings and at least 50 total hours of direct patient care.
- **Community Service:** Emphasis on service varies, but it is recommended to have a history of service, approximately 50+ hours per year. Service activities should demonstrate consistent and long term commitment to helping others, but do not need to be pharmacy related. Community service completed on a mission counts as a starting point, but engagement in your own community is seen as more valuable and should demonstrate a current pattern of service.
- **Leadership:** Experiences that exhibit leadership qualities can be accrued in conjunction with work experience, service, shadowing, and other extracurricular activities.
- **Research:** Experience participating in hypothesis-based research always looks good on your application and is strongly recommended.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- Pharmacy College Application Service (PHARMCAS)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

## SAMPLE PREREQUISITE CLASSES

\*Remember, the list below is a sample and may not be adequate for every school. Consult with your selected schools for actual requirements and better accuracy. Pay close attention to lab requirements and specific credit hours required.

### GENERAL CHEMISTRY

CHEM 105: General College Chemistry I	4.0 hrs
CHEM 106 & 107: General College Chemistry II& Lab (CHEM 111,112,& 113 if required by your major)	3.0, 1.0 hrs

### ORGANIC AND/OR BIOCHEMISTRY

CHEM 351: Organic Chemistry	3.0 hrs
CHEM 352: Organic Chemistry II	3.0 hrs
CHEM 353: Organic Chemistry Lab (CHEM 354, if required by major)	2.0 hrs
CHEM 481: Biochemistry	3.0 hrs

### PHYSICS

PHSCS 105 & 107: General Physics I & Lab (Or PHSCS 121 calculus-based)	3.0, 1.0 hrs
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### BIOLOGY

CELL 120: Science of Biology	3.0 hrs
<b>OR</b>	
MMBIO 121 & 122: General Biology (Bio 130, if required by major; only take MMBIO 122 if you need a biology lab)	3.0,/1.0 hrs

### ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

CELL 220: Human Anatomy and Lab	4.0 hrs
CELL 305: Human Physiology.	4.0 hrs
CELL 363: Adv Physiology Lab	1.0 hrs

### MICROBIOLOGY

MMBIO 221 & 222: General Microbiology & Lab	3.0,/1.0 hrs
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### CALCULUS

MATH 112: Calculus	4.0 hrs
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### STATISTICS

STAT 121: Principles of Statistics	3.0 hrs
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### PUBLIC SPEAKING

STDEV 150: Public Speaking	3.0 hrs
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