

PHARMACY (PHARM.D.)



Pharmacists are medication experts who enhance patient care and promote wellness. Pharmacists prepare and dispense prescriptions, ensure medicines and doses are correct, prevent harmful drug interactions, collaborate with other health care professionals, counsel patients on the safe and appropriate use of their medications, conduct health and wellness screenings, provide immunizations, and manage pharmacy systems. Pharmacists can be found in a variety of settings including community and consultant pharmacies, hospitals and institutions, managed care organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, academics and research, government agencies and many more. The most common work setting is community pharmacies, which include independent, prescription-only pharmacies, such as those found in medical office buildings, and local drug stores.

Pharmacists need a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm.D.), which typically takes 4 years to complete. They must also be licensed, which requires passing licensure and law exams. As an undergraduate Pre-Pharmacy student, it is important to carefully review the prerequisite course requirements of all programs of interest as they vary. Pharmacy schools encourage or require applicants to have volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health-related setting (hospital, nursing home, etc.). Ongoing work or volunteer experience in a pharmacy setting may be an important factor in the admissions process. Most programs also require the **Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT)** for admission. Please consult the **Pharm.D Directory of Schools** for specific application requirements.

We encourage you to meet with a Pre-Health Advisor at least once a semester to ensure satisfactory progress towards your goals!

COMMON CORE COURSES

Students are responsible for verifying the prerequisite coursework and policies of the schools to which they plan to apply.

Course	# of Courses	USC Course(s)
General Biology	2 courses with lab	BISC 120L and BISC 220L or BISC 121L and BISC 221L
General Chemistry	2 courses with lab	CHEM 105aL and CHEM 105bL or CHEM 107L and CHEM 108L or CHEM 115aL and CHEM 115bL
Organic Chemistry	2 courses with lab	CHEM 322aL and CHEM 322bL or CHEM 325aL and CHEM 325bL
Physics	2 courses with lab	PHYS 135aL and PHYS 135bL or PHYS 151L and PHYS 152L
Mathematics	1 Calculus course 1 Statistics course	MATH 125g or MATH 126g and/or BISC 305 or MATH 208x or HP 340 or PSYC 274g
Biochemistry	1 course. Please refer to individual school for lab requirements.	Science Majors: BISC 330L Non-Science Majors: CHEM 350g (Fall only) or BISC 312 (Spring only)
Anatomy	1 course	HBIO 301L
Physiology	1 course	BISC 307L or HBIO 420L
Microbiology	1 course	BISC 300L
English / Writing	2 courses	WRIT 150 and WRIT 340
Humanities / Social Science	Some schools strongly recommend or require a course in Psychology, Speech/Public Speaking and/or Economics (macro or micro).	PSYCH 100Lg ECON 203 or 205 COMM 204
Upper Division Sciences	1 additional Upper level science course in Immunology, Molecular Biology, and/or Genetics may be required. Refer to each school for requirements.	BISC 450L or BISC 320L or BISC 325.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many students who select a science major find a great deal of overlap between their major requirements and those pre-pharmacy requirements; however a science major is not required. Students should choose a major based on their interests, which at the same time, will keep them academically competitive.
- **PharmCAS** is the central application service for schools of pharmacy.
- A growing number of licensed pharmacists are choosing to become board certified in a specialty area of practice in pharmacy. These include: Ambulatory Care, Cardiology, Compounded Sterile Preparations, Critical Care, Geriatric, Infectious Diseases, Nuclear, Nutrition Support, Oncology, Pediatric, Pharmacotherapy, and Psychiatric.
- Many Pharm.D. programs require 1-4 letter of evaluations as part of the pharmacy admissions process.
- There are 140+ accredited pharmacy programs offering the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) professional degree.