PREPHARMACY INFORMATION SUMMARY

PreProfessional Advising Information

Email: ppa@advising.utah.edu (For Quick Questions)

Office Location: Building 44 (Second Floor)

Website: ppa.utah.edu

Make an appt!

Pharmacy School Basics

Pharmacy School
- Year 1-2: Didactic Years (Class Instruction)
- Year 3-4: Clinical Study & Practice Management

Residency (optional)
- 1-2 years focused postgrad training

Fellowship (optional)
- Training w/ focus on research, acadamia, or industry

Degree Conferred:
PharmD (doctor of pharmacy)

Get involved in activities (in-and outside the classroom) to help you develop knowledge, skills, and experiences to be a competitive applicant to pharmacy school.

Academic Preparation

Ensure you're academically prepared for the intensity of pharmacy school

- A bachelor's degree is not required but often preferred. Discuss with your PPA advisor.
- Complete pharmacy school prerequisites
- Competitive applicants have high GPAs, so build and strengthen your time management skills
- Any major is appropriate; make sure to pick the right fit for you, and study what you love!

Medical Experiences

Pharmacy and/or medical experience is critical to your success as a prepharmacy student. Interacting well with sick people is one of the key factors of a successful pharmacist!

Becoming a pharmacy technician is best, but general healthcare experience such as MA, CNA, EMT, or other role can also be helpful.

Demonstrate your knowledge, skills and preparation

Shadowing

This should be one of your first experiences as a prepharmacy student. Observing pharmacists in different environments will help you understand the profession. Shadowing also helps you get to know pharmacists since many schools require at least one LOR from a pharmacist

Competitive Applicants:
- Shadow pharmacists in various settings for more than 50+ hours

Extracurricular Activities

Leadership & Teamwork

Demonstrate your leadership skills by participating in a variety of experiences leading different people in different situations. No specific hours or number of activities required. *(Eg: coach, teacher, tutor, mentor, TA/LA, supervisor, officer role in a club, student advisory board, and many more.)*

Service to the Community

Interacting with people from different backgrounds and experiences than your own will strengthen your interpersonal and communication skills. No specific hours or number of activities required. Get involved! Visit the Bennion Center (bennioncenter.utah.edu)

APPLICATION PROCESS AND INFORMATION

Start Saving NOW!

Applying to pharmacy school can be expensive. The application fee is based on a graduated scale that varies, based on the number of programs you choose to send your application to. See the PharmCAS website for specific information regarding this graduated fee scale. Supplemental applications carry their own fees, commonly ranging between $50-$100 each. Factoring in application fees, PCAT registration and prep, the cost of traveling for in-person interviews, and more, we recommend students to prepare to spend over $2,000 for the application process. PharmCAS offers a limited number of fee waivers through their Fee Assistance Program for those who qualify.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Do your research!

It is your responsibility to ensure you are meeting all requirements for the schools you are interested in. When selecting dental programs, we recommend that you look at schools that align with your interests: location, size, student/faculty ratio, representation, etc. You can search for pharmacy schools on the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) website.

PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service)

There are 142 accredited pharmacy schools in the US, most of which utilize PharmCAS, which is available at pharmcas.org.

- Application requirements include transcripts, extracurricular experiences, a personal statement, and fees
- Many schools use a rolling admissions process (meaning they begin reviewing applications and admitting students before the deadlines). It will benefit you greatly to *submit your application early,* regardless of when you take the PCAT.
- The application will take most students several weeks to complete. Ensure you have plenty of time to fill out the Application.
- 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

PCAT

The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) has been retired.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Your application process begins in the spring or summer of the year prior to when you hope to begin your pharmacy program. Pharmacy schools admit students once a year for fall matriculation.

FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Request and Gather LORs																
					Apply											
	Ideal						**Interviews**									
	Possible								**Acceptances**							

Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

PLAN AHEAD: Pharmacy schools require LORs as part of your application. Get to know the people you interact with (professors, supervisors, etc.) You're not looking for good letters; you need excellent letters. Get these by building and maintaining your relationships. Letters must be current, signed, dated, and on letterhead. To facilitate this process, use the free PharmCAS 'Letters by Liaison's letter service.

LETTER TYPES: PharmCAS allows students to submit a maximum of four letters. The following are common types of letters required by most pharmacy programs. However, requirements vary by program, so *do your research*.

- **Professor (usually science: biology/chemistry/physics/math)**
- **Pharmacist, supervisor, or other healthcare professional**

POLICIES and CONSIDERATIONS

AP/IB CREDIT	Depends on program. Check each school's requirements
COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES	Many schools limit credits taken at community colleges to 60 credits. Check each program's reqs.
REPEATS	All grades will be counted in your PharmCAS calculated GPA.
WITHDRAWALS	Although W's will not affect your GPA, W's should be used sparingly. Work with your advisor.
GPA	Minimum requirements for total GPA is 3.0, but this varies by program. However, **competitive applicants** usually have a total GPA of 3.6 or higher. Some programs may also look separately at prerequisite or science GPA. **UUCP:** Minimum prereq GPA: 2.8, min overall 2.75. See program website for additional details.
GRADE EXPIRATION	Many programs require certain prerequisite courses to be completed within 5-7 years **(10 years for UUCP)** before matriculation. Check each program's requirements for more information.

Helpful Resources

- **Is Pharmacy Right for Me**: Learn more about the profession: pharmacyforme.org
- **University of Utah College of Pharmacy**: pharmacy.utah.edu
- **Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy**: roseman.edu

PrePharmacy Prerequisite Course Guide

Requirements vary by school. It is your responsibility to do your own research on each school you wish to apply to.
AP coursework may or not be accepted. If accepted, coursework beyond AP is often required.

Shaded boxes indicate the classes most commonly required by pharmacy schools.
Bolded classes may be taken at a community college; not all pharmacy schools will accept community college prereqs.

MATH

MATH 1050 (4) **College Algebra** **&** **MATH 1060 (3)** **Trigonometry** *may be waived by AP. Can be substituted with MATH 1080 (precalc)	**MATH 1070 (3)** **Statistics** *Prereq: See Course Description* *may be waived by AP for UUCP	**MATH 1210 (4)** **Calculus I** *Prereq: MATH 1050 & 1060, or 1080* *may be waived by AP for UUCP	MATH 1220 (4) Calculus II *Prereq: MATH 1220*

Please note: Consult both your advisor to determine appropriate placement and course selection.

BIOLOGY

BIOL 1610 (4) **Fundamentals of Biology I** *Prereq: MATH 1010*	BIOL 1620 (4) Fundamentals of Biology II *Prereq: BIOL 1610*	**BIOL 2325 (4) *** **Human Anatomy** *Prereq: BIOL 1610*	**BIOL 2420 (4) *** **Human Physiology** *Prereq: BIOL 1610 and CHEM 1210*	BIOL 3210 (3) BIOL 3205 (1) Microbiology and Lab *Prereq: BIOL 2020 and CHEM 1210* OR PATH 3100 (3) * Medical Microbiology

* UUCP Requirement

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 1210 (4) **CHEM 1215 (1)** **General Chemistry I and Lab** *PreReq: MATH 1050* *may be waived by AP for UUCP	**CHEM 1220 (4)** **CHEM 1225 (1)** **General Chemistry II and Lab** *PreReq: CHEM 1210*	**CHEM 2310 (4)** **CHEM 2315 (2)** **Organic Chemistry I and Lab** *PreReq: CHEM 1220*	**CHEM 2320 (4)** **CHEM 2325 (2)** **Organic Chemistry II and Lab** *PreReq: CHEM 2310*

Optional Chemistry Prep Course: CHEM 1200 (4): Prep for College Chemistry

PHYSICS

PHYS 2010 (4) **PHYS 2015 (1)** **General Physics 1 and Lab** *PreReq: MATH 1060* *may be waived by AP for UUCP	OR	PHYS 2210 (4) PHYS 2215 (1) Physics for Scientists & Engineers 1 and Lab *PreReq: MATH 1210*

Please note: Consult both your major advisor and a PPA advisor for the correct lecture and lab sequence.

NON-SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Two Semesters Writing **WRTG 1010 & WRTG 2010** and CW* if WRTG 1010 is not taken **WRTG 3015 (3) Professional or Technical Writing may be preferred*	***COMM 1020 (3)** **Public Speaking** *OR* *WRTG 3015 (3) Technical Writing **UUCP: either required*	**Humanities Gen Ed (HF)** **Social and Behavioral Science Gen Ed (BF)**	**SOC 1010 (3)** **Intro to Sociology**

NOTE: For UUCP, no more than 3 prerequisites may be outstanding, or in progress on January 1st of the year you are applying.

Updated: April 2025