

PREPARING FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL

Most pharmacy schools do *not* require applicants to earn a bachelor's degree prior to admission to a doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree, as long as the required coursework is taken.

Prerequisite courses

There is some variation in the pre-requisite coursework needed at the undergraduate level. Below is a listing of the undergraduate coursework required by most programs as well as some additional coursework that may be required by some programs.

Math: Calculus (Math 141), Statistics (Math 170)

Chemistry: General, two terms (Chem 115/116); Organic, two terms (Chem 250/252)

Physics, two terms (Phys 141/151)

Biology: General, two terms (Biol 130/150); Microbiology (Biol 230); Human Anatomy (Biol 310); Human Physiology (Biol 370)

Social Sciences: Microeconomics (Econ 100); Psychology (Psyc 100)

Other admission requirements:

- The PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test)
- at least three letters of recommendation (often at least one non-academic)

How long is pharmacy school?

Usually, four years of post-graduate study are required for the Pharm.D., but some accelerated programs (such as MCW) require less time. These curricula culminate with rotations in several pharmacy contexts (Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, or APPEs).

PROGRAM TUITION (2019-2020 school year)

UW-Madison: \$23,711 (Wisconsin residents), \$41,554 (nonresidents)

Medical College of Wisconsin: \$44,000 (all students)

University of Minnesota: \$27,864 (MN residents), \$40,800 (nonresidents)

Univ. of Illinois-Chicago: \$24,920 (IL residents), \$40,360 (nonresidents)

Median salary for Pharm.D. in 2016: \$108,267 (source: PayScale.com)

PROGRAMS attended recently by LU Alums

University of Minnesota (Twin Cities and Duluth), University of North Carolina, University of Wisconsin

What are pharmacy schools looking for?

As an example, here the criteria used at UW-Madison:

- Academic Achievement
- Communication Skills, Oral, Non-Verbal, Written
- Completion of required pre-Pharm.D. course work
- Cultural Awareness and Understanding
- Diversity of Background and Experiences
- Experience in Pharmacy or Health Care or Research
- Extracurricular/Community Service/Volunteer Activities
- Interest and Understanding of the Pharmacy Profession
- Leadership Experience
- Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) Scores

Average UW-Madison matriculant in 2016: 3.59 GPA, 81% percentile PCAT

How can I prepare?

- talk to Professor Debbert!
- work as pharmacy technician (ThedaCare, Walmart, etc)
- talk with pharmacists, pharmacy school reps, Pharm.D. students, etc.