

PRE-PHARMACY



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Pharmacists play a vital role in the health care system. Pharmacists dispense medications prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners, as well as monitoring patient health. They advise physicians and other health 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 and physical properties. Pharmacists are medication experts ultimately concerned about their patients' health and wellness.

While there is no preferred major, a strong background in the natural sciences is necessary and most pre-pharmacy students major in Chemistry or Biology. Many pharmacy schools require a bachelors degree for admission while some only require that certain pre-requisite courses be completed for admission. In addition to coursework in the sciences students must gain relevant pharmacy experiences either through work, volunteer, or shadowing, and some schools require the Pharmacy College Admission Test-PCAT .

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- UA Pre-Professional Health Advising: uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth
- UA partnership with NEOMED: neomed.edu/pharmacy
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy: aacp.org
- Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT): pcat-web.info

UA PARTNERSHIP WITH NEOMED

The University of Akron is a partner university with Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), which offers a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. .

Reserve your seat in Pharmacy school early! Apply to the UA/NEOMED partnership program as a high school senior or college freshman or sophomore. Students must complete all the required pre-requisite coursework, as defined by NEOMED (listed right), meet the minimum GPA requirements, and demonstrate significant interest in the profession through extracurricular activities.

Students should check www.neomed.edu for the most up to date requirements and recommendations.

Course Number	Course Name
BIOL 111/112	Principles of Biology I & II w/labs
BIOL 130* or BIOL 331	Principles of Microbiology* or Microbiology
BIOL 200* or BIOL 401	Human Anat. & Phys I* or Human Anat. for Bio Majors
CHEM 151/152 153/154	Principles of Chemistry I & II w/labs
CHEM 263/264 265/266	Organic Chemistry I & II w/labs
CHEM 401	Biochemistry I
MATH 221	Calc I
PHYS 261	Physics for Life Sciences I
STAT 261/262	Intro to Stats I & II
ENGL 111/112	English Comp I & II
Minimum of 60c required if not completing bachelors degree.	
*Not applicable toward Biology or Chemistry Majors	

PHARMACY
SCHOOL
TIMELINE

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Meet with the pre-health adviser
- Register your pre-pharmacy interest at www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth
- Explore careers in pharmacy
- Consider alternative career plans
- Join related organizations

SOPHOMORE
YEAR

- Pursue shadowing, work, volunteer, or other related activities
- Develop relationships with faculty
- Review pharmacy school catalogs and websites

JUNIOR YEAR

- Complete prerequisites
- Consider who you will ask for letters of recommendation
- Prepare/register/ take the PCAT over the summer (if needed)
- Start the PharmCAS application/Apply for admission

SENIOR YEAR

- Apply for admission
- Prepare for interviews

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process to pharmacy school is rigorous; there are many components, and it often takes students much longer than anticipated to complete the application.

Most pharmacy schools use rolling admission, so submitting applications sooner rather than later is advantageous. Although each school has different application deadlines, admissions applications tend to be

available in July. With most application deadlines falling between early December and early March. However, NEOMED's partner applicant deadline is in early October.

Most pharmacy schools require the PCAT and application submission through the Pharmacy College Application Service. As part of the application, students will be required to submit recommendation

letters. Therefore, it is important that students develop professional relationships with natural science faculty and pharmacists.

Once applications have been submitted and reviewed interested schools will send invitations for interviews.

EXPERIENCE & INVOLVMENT

In addition to strong academic credentials, pharmacy schools want to see well-rounded applicants. Students should actively seek out pharmacy experiences through shadowing, work experience or volunteering opportunities.

It is also recommended that you document the number of hours you log and journal your experiences. So later when you are filling out your applications and writing your essays you will easily be able to recall those experiences.

Participating in student organizations on campus is a great way to get involved in community service and develop leadership skills which are a great way to start building your resume.

It is important to note that there is no magic formula for admission to pharmacy school. Students need to be successful in the classroom while also selectively participating in activities that will add to their pharmacy school applications. Think about how the people you

meet through these experiences could help you as you apply to pharmacy school.



* All students interested in pharmacy school should register their pre-pharmacy interest at www.uakron.edu/bcas/prehealth. Students are encouraged to meet with the pre-health adviser early on to plan courses and experiences that will help prepare them to apply to pharmacy school.