Pharmacists are experts on drugs and drug therapy. As such they are vital members of a health care team. Pharmacists package and dispense prescription medications; they are a source of health information; they offer advice on non-prescriptive drugs, preparations, and appliances; and they provide sickroom supplies. They must understand the action and interaction of drugs and are often called upon by health care providers for information about specific drugs or combinations.

The growing interest in preventive medicine, the exploding number of new drugs and drug therapies, the increasing age of the population and the expansion of health insurance and medical care pre-payment plans should result in a continuing demand for new pharmacists. In 2008, the median annual wage and salary earnings of pharmacists were $106,410 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).
Professional Programs

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, in 2010 there were 112 accredited schools of pharmacy. Pharmacy programs grant the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.). The Pharm.D. is a 4-year program that requires at least two years of college study prior to admittance, although most applicants have a bachelor’s degree. Students who choose to apply to a PharmD program without a degree are less competitive than those who have completed a degree. Working toward a degree as a back-up “Plan B” should you not get admitted to a PharmD program when you first apply.

For more information about specific pharmacy schools contact:
www.aacp.org

Admission Requirements

Admissions requirements are GENERAL and may differ from school to school. Please contact the individual schools to discuss specific admissions requirements.

- Minimum of 60-90 credits of college education
- Competitive cumulative, science and prerequisite GPAs
- Competitive Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) score (not all Pharmacy schools require)
- Application submitted to each school or submitted to Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS, depending on specific school)
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview

Typical Academic Prerequisites

General Biology (2 semesters with labs)
General Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)
Organic Chemistry (2 semesters with labs)
General Physics (1 or 2 semesters w/labs)
Microbiology (1 semester with lab)
Biochemistry (1 semester) *CU
Anatomy & Physiology (8 credits w/labs)
English Composition (2 semesters)
Public Speaking (1 semester)
Mathematics/Statistics (1 semester Calculus and/or Statistics)
Humanities/Social Sciences (9 credits)*
Economics (1 semester)

Recommended CSU Courses

LIFE 102 and LIFE 103
CHEM 111/112 and CHEM 113/114
CHEM 341, 343 and 344
PH 121 and PH 122 OR PH 141 and PH 142
MIP 300/302
BC 351
BMS 300/BMS 302 or BMS 360/02
AND BMS 301
CO 150, CO or JTC 300/301
SPCM 200
MATH 155 or MATH 160
ERHS 307, STAT 201, 204, 301, or 307
varies by Program Course prefixes
AP, ART, BUSINESS, E, EC, HIST, HD, JT, LIT, MATH, PHIL, LANGUAGE, PO, PY, SOC
ECON 202 or 204

Last updated 7-11—Information is subject to change.