



# Pre-Pharmacy Advising Sheet

Admission to pharmacy school is highly competitive. Some pharmacy schools will accept students upon the completion of a minimum of 60 semester units of pre-pharmacy coursework. However, a bachelor's degree is preferred at many institutions.

A solid understanding of fundamental sciences is essential to study pharmaceutical and biochemical sciences. A pharmacy degree requires four academic years of study. The first two years usually cover the basic sciences and the last two years, pharmacy theory and practice. At the completion of the curriculum, students are awarded a PharmD degree (Doctor of Pharmacy). Some pharmacy programs offer joint degrees: PharmD/PhD, PharmD/MBA, and PharmD/MS

## Choosing an Undergraduate Major

"Pre-pharmacy" is **not** a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. A discipline in natural science is often a popular major selected. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. Some colleges, such as UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara have baccalaureate degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Chemistry or Pharmacology that include the common pre-pharmacy coursework requirements. Visit [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for more information.

Students applying to pharmacy school need to plan carefully and complete not only the pharmacy schools' requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

### Suggested courses for most Pharmacy School:

One Year of General Biology with Lab  
One Year of General Chemistry with Lab  
One Year of Organic Chemistry with Lab  
One Year of Physics with Lab  
One or more courses in Biochemistry  
One semester of Microbiology  
One Year of English (Comp. and Lit.)  
One Semester of Anatomy  
One Semester of Physiology  
Math (Calculus)  
(Most schools require one semester or one year of Calculus.)  
One course in Statistics  
(Some schools require statistics and calculus)  
One or more courses in Psychology  
Public Speaking/Speech  
One Semester of Economics

### Suggested GCC courses:

BIOL 101 and 102  
CHEM 101 and 102  
CHEM 105 and 106  
PHYS 105 and 106 or PHYS 101, 102, 103  
  
BIOL 112  
ENGL 101, 102 or 104  
BIOL 120  
BIOL 121  
MATH 103, 104  
MATH 136  
PSYCH 101  
SPCH 101  
ECON 101 or 102

**Note:** All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit. Most pharmacy schools prefer that prerequisites be taken at a university versus a community college. Pharmacy school requirements vary, check with the individual campus for their specific requirements.

**Note:** Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up to date information.

### Pharmacy School Selection Criteria

- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades or pre-pharmacy coursework grades, depending on the school. Admissions committees look for trends in academic ability. Indication of improvement in your last two years of college work is highly noted. To be a competitive pharmacy applicant, keep your overall GPA above a 3.3.
- Some schools may require **admissions tests** such as the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is an admissions requirement. Check with the pharmacy schools you plan to apply to for information.
- Pharmacy schools expect applicants to have experience in **community service**. Evidence of community service demonstrates your interest in serving and helping people, your willingness to learn from others, and your development of interpersonal communication skills.
- Pharmacy schools select students who will become leaders in the profession. **Leadership skills** can be gained by serving as an officer in a student organization or fraternity/sorority, taking a leading role in a public service agency, or participating in competitive sports.
- To determine oral and written communication skills, pharmacy applicants are required to participate in pharmacy **interviews** and can be asked to submit a writing sample at the interview.
- Admissions committees expect that you have **knowledge of the pharmacy profession** and that you know some of the issues pharmacists currently face. Additionally, the admissions committee will want to know specifically why you are pursuing a career in the pharmacy profession.
- **Pharmacy experience** gained through volunteering, interning, or taking a summer job in a pharmacy or health care setting.

**Salary Information** The average wage in 2014 for Pharmacists in California was \$135,792 annually ([www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)).

### Recommended Websites

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	<a href="http://www.aacp.org">www.aacp.org</a>
American Council of Pharmaceutical Education	<a href="http://www.acpe-accredit.org">www.acpe-accredit.org</a>
American Pharmacists Association	<a href="http://www.pharmacist.com">www.pharmacist.com</a>
Pharmacy Choice	<a href="http://www.pharmacychoice.com/education/pharmacy_schools.cfm">www.pharmacychoice.com/education/pharmacy_schools.cfm</a>

### Select Pharmacy School Websites

Loma Linda University	<a href="http://www.llu.edu/pharmacy/index.page">www.llu.edu/pharmacy/index.page</a>
UC San Diego	<a href="http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu">http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu</a>
UC San Francisco	<a href="http://pharmacy.ucsf.edu">http://pharmacy.ucsf.edu</a>
University of Pacific	<a href="http://www.pacific.edu/pharmacy">www.pacific.edu/pharmacy</a>
University of Southern California	<a href="http://www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy">www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy</a>
Western University of Health Sciences	<a href="http://www.westernu.edu/pharmacy">www.westernu.edu/pharmacy</a>