

Pharmacy School ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2012–2013

**Admission information for professional
pharmacy degree programs in the United States**

The PSAR is designed to provide the most up-to-date information about each school, including specifics about admission requirements, selection factors, and educational costs for students entering pharmacy school in fall 2012. In each case, the information represents the best estimates of future requirements and costs for each school. The schools, however, are not bound by these estimates. Please contact the schools individually for actual data.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy gratefully acknowledges the efforts of those individuals at each school who made this publication possible.

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Founded in 1900, AACP is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 124 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 6,190 faculty, 57,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,700 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.

For additional information about the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, please contact us at 1727 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703/739-2330, or visit our Web sites at www.aacp.org and www.pharmcas.org.

This is an extraordinary time to be considering a career in pharmacy. Our nation's health care system is in the process of making some of the most significant changes in decades. Patient-centered care that is delivered by teams of professionals working together is now the focus of health delivery systems committed to improving how health care works. The thousands of medications, including prescription, nonprescription and other health-related products, used to prevent and treat illness today must be managed by a **medication use specialist**. That is what pharmacy education prepares you to become and the possibilities to use that knowledge are limitless.

This issue of *Pharmacy School Admissions Requirements* (PSAR) provides a guide for your review and selection of the college or school of pharmacy that best suits your college plans. The individual school narratives provide detailed information on pre-professional course requirements, curriculum and other aspects of admissions for more than 120 institutions. The publication also includes characteristics of degree programs, tuition rates, admission policies and application deadlines to further assist individuals interested in pursuing a degree in pharmacy.

The recognition that patients need help managing their medication therapy is growing and pharmacists' roles are changing in our health care system. Colleges and schools of pharmacy prepare students to deliver patient-centered care as part of teams of health care providers. As an integral team member you will draw upon a vast knowledge of medications and how to use them properly. You will provide patient education and medication monitoring activities. By providing immunizations and health screenings, you contribute to improving the public's health. As a medication use specialist, you help reduce the incidence of medication errors and patient harm. Pharmacists work in their communities and around the world as leaders and agents of change to improve access to quality health care for all.

AACP encourages you to work hard in preparation for the exciting career opportunities that await you. The return will be substantial in terms of your professional fulfillment in service to society as you make a true difference in the lives of others.



Lucinda L. Maine

Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Executive Vice President and CEO
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

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General Information

An Introduction to Pharmacy

As a profession, pharmacy exists to serve the needs of society, most often represented as the needs of individual patients. Pharmacy's ultimate goal is to render pharmaceutical care. Pharmaceutical care encompasses the full range of pharmacists' skills, knowledge and abilities in providing medication services to patients. The principal goal of pharmaceutical care is to achieve definite outcomes from medication use that improve patients' quality of life. These outcomes include: 1) cure of a disease; 2) elimination or reduction of symptoms; 3) arresting or slowing a disease process; 4) prevention of disease; 5) diagnosis of disease; and 6) desired alterations in physiological processes, all with minimum risk to patients. Pharmacists are professionals, uniquely prepared and available, committed to public service and to the achievement of this goal.

Historically, the functions of the pharmacist centered on the preparation and provision of a drug product to a patient. However, in recent times, the scope of the pharmacist's activities has expanded to include consultation with physicians and other health professionals in the process of pharmacotherapeutic decision making; selecting an appropriate dosage form for a given patient; determining the dose and dosage schedule; preparing the medication for administration to the patient; providing information about the medication to the patient; advising the patient to assure the medication is used correctly for maximum effectiveness; and monitoring the patient to prevent or detect harmful side effects. Pharmacists, in collaboration with other health professionals, have the responsibility of assuring optimal outcomes from drug therapy for their patients.

An expanding need for pharmacists is shown by examining some of society's significant social and health issues. These issues include increases in average life span, the percentage of elderly in the population, and the increased incidence of chronic diseases; the increased complexity, number and sophistication of medications and related products and devices; increased emphasis on primary and preventive health services, home health care, and long-term care; and concerns about improving patients' access to health care, controlling its cost, and assuring its quality. The role of medications and their proper use is found throughout these issues and pharmacists are at the center of the system addressing them.

The pharmacist is the most accessible member of the health care team. A pharmacist is often the first health professional with whom patients will confer regarding a health question and is likely to be the final one with whom patients consult about their medications and their use. Today's pharmacist must not only dispense prescriptions, but also communicate information and provide medication-related primary health care.

Accredited Professional Programs of Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the sole accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit professional degree programs in pharmacy. Therefore, ACPE's directory is the only directory of accredited professional

degree programs in pharmacy recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For students and prospective students, accreditation assists in the transfer of credits among institutions and provides an assurance that a program has been found to provide satisfactory educational preparation for licensure and practice.

The types of accreditation include initial or continued accreditation and preaccreditation, which is broken down to Precandidate status and Candidate status. The professional degree program of a college or school of pharmacy is granted initial or continued accreditation if it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of ACPE that the program complies with accreditation standards. This includes the appropriateness of the program's mission and goals, the adequacy of resources and organization to meet the mission and goals, outcomes which indicate that the mission and goals are being met, and the reasonable assurance of the continued compliance with standards.

In the event that the ACPE Board of Directors determines a program is not in compliance with a standard or standards, the program will be notified in writing of its non-compliance and given a period not longer than two years to bring all aspects of non-compliance into compliance with ACPE accreditation standards. Generally, if after one year of notification of non-compliance, the program fails to demonstrate adequate progress towards achieving compliance with ACPE standards, ACPE will place the program on probation.

A newly instituted Doctor of Pharmacy program of a college or school of pharmacy must be granted each of the two preaccreditation statuses at the appropriate stage of its development. The standards are the same as those employed for accredited status. However, preaccreditation involves, in large measure, planning in accord with standards and provision of reasonable assurances for a quality outcome. It should be noted that a new program must achieve precandidate accreditation status prior to the enrollment of students. Failure to do so will preclude consideration for ACPE accreditation until after graduates have been produced, at which time a program could be considered for full accreditation status. As these first graduates would emerge from a program with no accreditation status, they may not be eligible for licensure as pharmacists.

A new program that has no students enrolled but that meets the eligibility criteria for accreditation may be granted Precandidate accreditation status. The granting of Precandidate status indicates that a college or school's planning for the Doctor of Pharmacy program has taken into account ACPE standards and guidelines and suggests reasonable assurances of moving to the next step, that of Candidate status. Granting of Precandidate status brings no rights or privileges of accreditation. Full public disclosure by the college or school of pharmacy of the terms and conditions of this accreditation status is required.

Once students have enrolled in a new program, but the program has not had a graduating class, the program may be granted Candidate status. The granting of Candidate status denotes a developmental program, which is expected to mature in accord with stated plans and within a defined time period. Reasonable assurances are expected to be provided that the program may become accredited as programmatic

experiences are gained, generally, by the time the first class has graduated. Graduates of a class designated as having Candidate status have the same rights and privileges as graduates of an accredited program.

Once students have enrolled in a new program, but the program has not had a graduating class, the program may be granted Candidate status. The granting of Candidate status denotes a developmental program, which is expected to mature in accord with stated plans and within a defined time period. Reasonable assurances are expected to be provided that the program may become accredited as programmatic experiences are gained, generally, by the time the first class has graduated. Graduates of a class designated as having Candidate status have the same rights and privileges as graduates of an accredited program.

Career Options

Pharmacists provide pharmaceutical care in a variety of settings. Most visible is the community pharmacist who practices in the local, independently-owned pharmacy, chain pharmacy, pharmacy department in a food or discount store, or professional health center. Other practice opportunities exist for pharmacists in hospitals, home health care, nursing homes and extended care facilities, neighborhood health centers, and health maintenance organizations. In all these practice settings, pharmacists are responsible for direct patient care. They manage systems designed to assure that each patient receives the appropriate medication in the correct form and dosage, at the correct time, and that the patient understands the intended and proper use of the medication.

Pharmacists are also employed by firms that discover, develop and produce chemicals, prescription and nonprescription drugs, and other health products. Pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry conduct research, develop and market products, maintain quality control, and administer programs.

Many of the more than 5,600 full-time faculty members who work in the nation's 124 colleges and schools of pharmacy are pharmacists. In general, all participate in teaching students, conducting research, providing patient care, and/or participating in public and professional service activities (e.g., act as consultants for local, state, national, and international agencies and organizations). To quote one current pharmacy faculty member, "Perhaps no other job in pharmacy has such far-reaching effects on the profession as that of an educator. It is in academia that one can excite young people about pharmacy and lay the groundwork for continuing advances in the field."

In government, pharmacists hold staff and supervisory posts in the United States Public Health Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Armed Services. Some pharmacists perform highly specialized tasks such as advertising, technical writing, magazine editing, and science reporting. Pharmacists with legal training serve as patent lawyers or experts in pharmaceutical law. There are pharmacists in America's space laboratories and aboard ships such as the S.S. Hope; others direct manufacturing firms or specialize in medicinal plant cultivation. In short, today's pharmacy graduates

have an enormous variety of careers open to them that draw upon the expertise gained from a pharmaceutical education.

Educational and Degree Options

A sound high school and college education in math and science is essential in preparing for the study of pharmacy. Also, good communication skills are important in the study and practice of pharmacy, and a broad general education in the social sciences and humanities is important preparation for anyone. When preparing an application to a college or school of pharmacy, consult early with the dean or admission's counselor.

The structure of the pharmacy programs vary from college to college. Some colleges require one, two, or three years of prepharmacy education, while others require a Bachelor's degree and others integrate the curriculum with all years of study in the professional college. Preprofessional education may be taken at any approved junior college or university. Additionally, some colleges offer alternative enrollment options, including part-time enrollment and year-round classes. School specific structure options are listed in table 1 on pages 250-253.

In July 1992, a majority of the nation's schools and colleges of pharmacy voted to move toward awarding the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree as the only professional degree in pharmacy. In June 1997, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the accrediting agency for pharmacy programs in the United States, adopted new accreditation standards and guidelines. As a result of the Implementation Procedures published by the ACPE, the B.S. in Pharmacy degree is no longer offered to new students. New students who wish to practice pharmacy in the U.S. must earn a Pharm.D. degree from an accredited college or school of pharmacy and pass a state board examination.

A Pharm.D. degree requires at least four academic years (or three calendar years) of professional study, following a minimum of two years of preprofessional study. Individual schools have specific requirements for preprofessional study. The majority of students enter a pharmacy program with three or more years of college study.

The pharmacy curriculum is designed to produce a scientifically and technically competent pharmacist who can apply this training in such a manner as to provide maximum health care services to patients. The Pharm.D. program provides the opportunity for students to gain experience in patient-centered learning experiences and in working in close, cooperative relationships with health practitioners. It is the goal of all pharmacy schools to prepare pharmacists who can assume responsibilities in the care of patients and assure the provision of rational drug therapy.

After graduating from pharmacy school, increasing numbers of students are seeking residency training in institutional and community pharmacy practice. These residency programs may be in pharmacy practice or specialty areas, depending upon personal interests and specific career requirements. Completion of a pharmacy residency is sometimes a requirement for employment in hospital pharmacy practice or clinical faculty positions.

General Information

Students with a pharmacy degree, or with a baccalaureate in another science-based discipline, can pursue graduate work in one of pharmacy's several scientific disciplines and earn a Master of Science (M.S.) and/or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. The M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are research-oriented degrees and do not prepare the student to become a licensed pharmacy practitioner.

Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS)

In an effort to simplify the application process for prospective student pharmacists and encourage more students to consider pharmacy as a career option, AACP launched the Pharmacy College Application Service in 2003, for students interested in applying to schools and colleges of pharmacy. This centralized service allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to multiple entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy degree programs. PharmCAS benefits AACP member institutions, applicants and the AACP office by facilitating the pharmacy admissions process, student recruitment, and data collection. PharmCAS is a service of AACP and is administered by Liaison International, Inc., an information technology and consulting company. There are 101 pharmacy institutions participating in PharmCAS for 2012 enrollment.

PharmCAS is intended for first-year professional pharmacy degree applicants only. High school students, B.S. of Pharmacy degree graduates, and current student pharmacists who wish to transfer to another pharmacy degree program should contact institutions directly for instructions.

Applicants who apply through PharmCAS will submit a completed Web-based application comprised of biographical data, post secondary institutions attended, academic course history, work experience, extracurricular activities, and a personal statement. Applicants must also arrange for PharmCAS to receive an official transcript from all U.S. accredited institutions attended, and the required fee. Applicants may log onto the PharmCAS application to edit personal application data as often as desired until the final application is submitted to PharmCAS. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and follow all PharmCAS and institution-specific instructions.

PharmCAS will consider an application complete and begin to process it once the following materials are received:

- Complete PharmCAS application
- Sealed official transcripts from every U.S. college/university attended
- Correct PharmCAS application fee

PharmCAS also collects the following additional materials, if required by the applicant's designated pharmacy schools:

- Letters of reference
- Foreign Transcript Evaluation Report (if required by the school)
- PCAT, TOEFL, and TSE scores (if required by the school)

If an applicant's designated PharmCAS school requires the PCAT, TOEFL and/or TSE; the applicant must request the testing agency to release the test scores directly to PharmCAS.

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
PharmCAS Code 104
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
PharmCAS Code 8246
Test of Spoken English (TSE)
PharmCAS Code 8246

Pharmacy programs may require applicants to send additional fees and/or application materials directly to the institution, including supplemental applications. Failure to submit all required materials as instructed may jeopardize an applicant's eligibility for admission consideration.

For the latest PharmCAS information or to create an application account, please contact the PharmCAS office directly.

Pharmacy College Application Service
P.O. Box 9109
Watertown, MA 02471
PharmCAS Hotline: 617-612-2050
TTY Phone: 617-612-2060
E-mail: info@pharmcas.org
www.pharmcas.org

The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)

A few of the 124 colleges of pharmacy require the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Testing Assessment (ACT) for admission. More than three-fourths also require or recommend the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). Specific admission requirements for each school are listed in tables 9 and 10 on pages 268-272. The cost of the 2011-2012 PCAT exam is \$199.00 for online application, and the test dates are:

September 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 2011; January 10, 11, 2012
For information, application deadlines and test dates for the PCAT, contact:

Pearson
PSE Customer Relations—PCAT
19500 Bulverde Road
San Antonio, TX 78259
Phone: 1-800-622-3231 or 210-339-8710
Fax: 1-888-211-8276 or 210-339-8711
E-mail: scoring.services@pearson.com
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time
www.pcatweb.info

If you are planning to apply to a PharmCAS participating school for enrollment in fall 2012 – AND – your designated pharmacy institutions requires the PCAT, request Pearson to release your test scores directly to CODE 104. You do NOT need to send your PCAT scores to PharmCAS schools directly.

Financial Assistance

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) does not

administer any financial assistance programs. Federal and state grants and scholarships, although widely available, are generally reserved for the most economically disadvantaged students. You should investigate with your college financial advisors your eligibility for federal, state and local programs. Examples of federal financial aid programs include:

- Pell Grants and Supplemental Education Opportunities Grants—federal scholarships available for the neediest undergraduate students.
- College Work Study Program—a combination of federal and local school funds used to pay salaries for students who work on campus.
- National Direct Student Loan Program—a campus-based, low interest bearing loan program for undergraduate students.
- Health Professions Student Loans—loan program for which student pharmacists are eligible.

Your college or high school advisors are often the best sources of information about loan, grant and scholarship programs. Additionally, organizations and the colleges themselves may offer financial assistance. You may also find information about financial assistance at www.explorehealthcareers.org

In Summary

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career within the health professions, consider pharmacy. Be sure that your academic background provides a solid foundation for the pharmacy curriculum, and take the time to investigate the variety of pharmacy programs that are available to you. In addition to the basic issues of tuition, application fees and prerequisites, it might be helpful if you inquire about the following issues as they relate to the various programs:

- The current accreditation status of the college's professional program(s)
- The number of faculty members and administrators and student-to-faculty ratio
- Physical and clinical facilities, library resources, and student support services
- Admission criteria and policies including limitations on class size
- Academic standards and progression policies

Curricular structure

- Graduation requirements
- Available scholarships and other forms of financial aid and the definition of residency status
- Availability of out-of-classroom learning opportunities
- Social and cultural activities available

The individual school information that follows will provide you with a good start in assessing the different programs. Additionally, the tables on pages 250-280 will be helpful as you compare many of the factors upon which you might base your decision to apply to specific schools. Once you have decided upon the schools that you would like to attend, contact the admissions officers for more up-to-date and specific information.