



# 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 Irvine and UC San Diego, have baccalaureate degrees in pharmaceutical sciences 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.

## 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.

## Recommended Websites

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy [www.aacp.org/](http://www.aacp.org/)
- American Council of Pharmaceutical Education [www.acpe-accredit.org/](http://www.acpe-accredit.org/)
- American Pharmacists Association [www.aphanet.org](http://www.aphanet.org)
- Pharmacy Choice [www.pharmacychoice.com/education/pharmacy](http://www.pharmacychoice.com/education/pharmacy)
- Pharmacy College Application Service <http://pharmacas.com>
- UC Berkeley Career Center <http://career.berkeley.edu/Health/PharmPrep.stm>

## Select Pharmacy School Websites

- Loma Linda University [www.llu.edu/llu/sps/index.html](http://www.llu.edu/llu/sps/index.html)
- UC San Diego <http://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/>
- UC San Francisco <http://pharmacy.ucsf.edu/>
- University of Pacific <http://www.pacific.edu/pharmacy/>
- University of Southern California [www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy/](http://www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy/)
- Western Health Sciences [www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/pharmacy/pharmd](http://www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/pharmacy/pharmd)

Coursework	Citrus College Courses
One year of English	ENGL 101 & 102, 103 or 104
One year of Biology	BIOL 124 & 125
Anatomy	BIOL 200
Physiology	BIOL 201
Microbiology	BIOL 220
One year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 210/211 & 220/221
One year of Physics	PHYS 201 & 202 or 203
Additional Coursework	MATH 190, 165
Recommended Courses:	PSY 101, SPCH 101, ECON 102