

WHAT IS PHARMACY (PHARM)?

Pharmacy is the branch of health sciences that deals with the preparation, dispensing, and proper utilization of drugs. A pharmacist is a health care professional who is licensed to prepare and sell or dispose of drugs and compounds and can make up prescriptions. The following is a brief guide to courses you will take at the University of Dubuque to fulfill the requirements for admission to the University of Iowa's Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

PRE-REQUISITES:

Most pharmacy schools do not require you to complete an undergraduate degree, though you may be more competitive for admission with a degree. Each school varies in its expectations of successful applicants, so the best places to check for the latest information are the websites of the schools in which you are most interested, and the admissions offices at those schools.

Course Requirements: It is critical to be aware of the pharmacy school admission requirements early on in college so that you can arrange your coursework appropriately. Unlike many other health professional schools, each pharmacy school varies considerably in what courses it expects of its applicants.

| Listed below are the courses at the University of Dubuque that students must complete to meet the University of Iowa's College of Pharmacy prerequisite course requirements for admission. | |
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| Physics (4 credits) | PHY 151 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.)(High school course satisfies requirement.) |
| Math | MATH 250 and MATH 230 |
| Chemistry (8 credits) | CHM 111 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and CHM 112 |
| Organic Chemistry (8 credits) | CHM 221 and CHM 222 |
| Biological Sciences (8 credits) | *BIO 135 (General Zoology) and BIO 235 (Cell Biology) |
| Anatomy and Physiology (8 credits) | BIO 211 (Anatomy and Physiology I) (CHM 105 or Equivalent is a prerequisite) and BIO 212 |
| Biochemistry (4 credits) | CHM 331 (Biochemistry) |
| Microbiology (4 credits) | BIO 314 (Microbiology) |
| Microeconomics (3 credits) | BAC 160 (Microeconomics) |

EXAM AND GPA:

The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) is a standardized examination that consists of 240 multiple choice items and two writing topics that measures general academic ability and scientific knowledge necessary for entrance into a Pharmacy program. It is required by all of the American Pharmacy schools. Typically, students take the PCAT about one calendar year prior to their intended date of matriculation to professional school. A PCAT score is good for three years at most schools, so taking the test in the spring of junior year does not necessarily mean that you must enter Pharmacy school right after college graduation. For purposes of admission, most Pharmacy schools will look at your percentile rank.

Grade Point Average (GPA): Minimum GPA requirements vary from program to program, but MOST programs have a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement but competitive GPA's are closer to a 3.3. In addition, most programs require that all prerequisite courses must be passed with a "C" or better.

TIMELINE:**Freshman Year:**

- Connect with a Health Professions Advisor or Faculty Member.
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above).
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love).
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community).
- Start medical experience (Pharmacy Tech, CNA, Shadowing, etc).
- Go to your professor's office hours.
- Join some student organizations.

Sophomore Year:

- Continue with next sequence of courses.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (Medical, volunteer, etc).
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations.
- Begin research on professional schools, their requirements, and assess your competitiveness.
- Start deciding whether you will pursue a Bachelor's Degree
- Investigate PCAT preparation options
- Take PCAT if applying without undergraduate degree
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

Junior Year:

- Talk to Health Professions advisor or faculty member to narrow program options and assess competitiveness (Fall semester).
- Register for the PCAT if completing undergraduate degree (Fall Semester).
- Study for PCAT and take it (Spring/Summer).
- Identify 3 individuals to write letters of recommendation (Spring Semester).
- Complete Application (PHARMCAS) (Spring Semester-Summer).
- Schedule a mock interview with Career Services.
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far.

Senior Year:

- Submit Application(s) if you haven't already (Fall semester).
- Wait to be contacted for interview from medical schools.
- Continue with activities and professional experiences/shadowing.
- Talk with an advisor about Plan B if necessary.
- Finish degree requirements and GRADUATE!

RESOURCES:

The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy [Click Here](#)

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) [Click Here](#)

AACP Admissions Guide [Click Here](#)

PCAT Information/Dates [Click Here](#)