

PHARMACY

Building 3, Room 108, Brighton Campus • www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter • 585.292.2248

Pharmacists prepare and dispense drugs. They understand chemicals and their properties, drug compounds and their use. Pharmacists advise health care providers, such as physicians and dentists, on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications on patients. Many pharmacists practice in retail or chain store pharmacies. Others practice in hospitals, firms that make pharmaceuticals, public health care centers and government regulatory agencies. It usually takes from 6 - 8 years to become a pharmacist. For some specialties, further training is required.

Degree: A license to practice pharmacy is required in all States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Pharmacy programs in the United States grant the doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.).

Admission to Pharmacy School: Admission is competitive. Many pharmacy colleges require prospective students to apply via PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service). A list of participating institutions is available at www.pharmcas.org. The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) and criminal background check may be required.

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:

- Grade Point Average
- Essays and letters of recommendation
- Experience with patient care
- Related work experience
- PCAT score
- Research experience, awards and honors
- Demonstrated leadership skills

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Pharmacy Programs: One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; One year of English; Statistics; Calculus; Microbiology; and Psychology. **Requirements vary significantly by program.**

Examples of MCC courses include:

ENG 101 - English Composition

ENG 200 - Advanced Composition

PSY 101 - Introductory Psychology

MTH 160 - Statistics I

MTH 210 - Calculus I

MTH 211 - Calculus II

BIO 155 - General Biology I

BIO 156 - General Biology II

BIO 202 or 209 - Microbiology

CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I

CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II

CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I

CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II

PHY 145 & 146 - College Physics I & II or

PHY 154 & 155 - General Physics I & II or

PHY 161 & 261 - University Physics I & II

Suggested elective choices include: SOC 101, HIS 111 and/or HIS 112, ECO 111, SPT 142, ANT 102, ENG Lit, PHL.

Important Notes:

- The undergraduate courses required for admission into a pharmacy degree program vary significantly from one institution to the next. Due to the variations in admission requirements and procedures among the colleges and schools of pharmacy, it is advisable to research different pharmacy programs. Visit the pharmacy school websites for course requirements. **School specific information is also available at www.pharmcas.org and www.aacp.org** (Resources/Student Center).
- If you do not initially gain acceptance, an option could be to proceed with obtaining a Bachelor Degree and then reapply.
- Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in Chemistry is typical.
- In the past, some pharmacy programs have not been open to transfer students.
- Be aware of deadline dates, ensure your academic transcripts arrive on time, and follow up on your application to make sure all information is complete.

Partial Listing of Colleges in New York State with a Program in Pharmacy:

SUNY University at Buffalo*

St. John Fisher College*

Albany College of Pharmacy

D'Youville College

Long Island University

Touro College**

*Please see Career and Transfer Advising Guides specific to St. John Fisher and SUNY University at Buffalo pharmacy programs.

**Bachelors degree required for admission.

Updated 6/2011

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career and Transfer Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.