

Career Advising Guide

PHARMACY

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 (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) may be required.

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:

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

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 are:

ENG 101 – English Composition	BIO 155 - General Biology I	PHY 145 - College Physics I
ENG 200 – Advanced Composition	BIO 156 - General Biology II	PHY 146 – College Physics II
PSY 101 – Introduction to Psychology	BIO 202 or 209 - Microbiology	or
MTH 160 – Statistics I	CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I	PHY 154 - General Physics I
MTH 210 - Calculus I	CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II	PHY 155 - General Physics II
MTH 211 – Calculus II	CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I	or
	CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II	PHY 161 - University Physics I
		PHY 261 - University Physics II

Suggested elective choices include: SOC 101, HIS 111 or HIS 112, ECO 111, and SPT 142.

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 on the PharmCAS site and at www.aacp.org.
- If you do not initially gain acceptance, an option could be to proceed with obtaining a Bachelor Degree and then re-apply. 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.
- Make sure to check deadline dates.
- Be sure your academic transcripts arrive on time. Follow up on your application to make sure all information is complete

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

SUNY University at Buffalo*
St. John Fisher College*

Albany College of Pharmacy
St. John's University

Long Island University, Brooklyn Center
Touro College (Bachelor's degree required)

*Please see separate Career Advising Guides for specific St. John Fisher and SUNY University at Buffalo requirements.

Please 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 Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.