

Pharmacists prepare and dispense drugs, counsel patients in the proper use of these drugs, and 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. It usually takes from 6 - 8 years to become a pharmacist. For some specialties, further training is required. Pharmacy programs in the United States grant the doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.).

Admission

Admission is competitive and requirements vary. Some programs require a Bachelor's degree for admission. Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in a science field (biology or chemistry) is typical. Some pharmacy programs might not be open to transfer students. 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

- Essays and letters of recommendation
- Research experience, awards and honors
- Grade Point Average
- PCAT score
- Patient care & related work experience
- Demonstrated leadership skills

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses

Two semesters of biology with laboratories; two semesters of physics with laboratories; four semesters of chemistry with labs including organic; two semesters of English; statistics; calculus; microbiology; and psychology. AP credits (especially for science courses) might not be accepted. Admission requirements vary significantly by program. Visit pharmacy school websites for course requirements.

Examples of MCC courses

- ENG 101 and/or 200 - English Composition
- PSY 101 – Intro to Psychological Science
- CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I
- CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II
- CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I
- CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II
- MTH 160 - Statistics I
- MTH 210 - Calculus I
- MTH 211 - Calculus II
- BIO 155 - Introduction to Cell and Molecular Bio
- BIO 156 - Introduction to Organismal Bio and Eco
- BIO 202 or 209 – Microbiology
- PHY 145 & 146 - College Physics I & II or PHY 154 & 155 - General Physics I & II or PHY 161 & 261 - University Physics I & II

Partial Listing of Colleges in New York with a Pharmacy Program

- SUNY University at Buffalo*
- Albany College of Pharmacy
- Long Island University
- St. John Fisher University*
- D'Youville University*
- Touro College**
- SUNY Binghamton University
- SUNY Stony Brook University

**See Advising Guides specific to St. John Fisher, SUNY University at Buffalo and D'Youville pharmacy programs.*

***Bachelor's degree preferred for admission.*

Additional Requirements and Course Suggestions May Include

Anatomy & Physiology, Biochemistry, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Public Speaking, Philosophy, English Literature.

School specific information is available at www.pharmcas.org and www.aacp.org (Resources/Student Center).

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