Pharmacy

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 Include:
- 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 - General Biology I
BIO 156 - General Biology II
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 State with a Program in Pharmacy:
SUNY University at Buffalo*
Albany College of Pharmacy
Long Island University
St. John Fisher College*
D’Youville College*
Touro College**

Binghamton University
Stony Brook University

*See Advising Guides specific to St. John Fisher, SUNY University at Buffalo and D’Youville College pharmacy programs.
**Bachelor’s degree required 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.

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