



Pre-Pharmacy Preparation

Pharmacists are the licensed health care professionals that dispense medications and provide information to patients on their medications. They advise other health care professionals on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications.

To prepare for a career in pharmacy, a student must complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) degree at a professional college of pharmacy. A Pharm.D. degree consists of 4 academic years of professional education. Although it is possible to apply for a Pharm.D. program after completing 60 semester hours at the undergraduate level, it is not the norm. Many students complete at least 3 years of undergraduate education, while most complete their baccalaureate degree. A "C" or better is required of all prerequisite coursework and a minimum of a 2.5 gpa, although the average accepted student has around a 3.5 gpa. Over half of those accepted into the pharmacy programs have had volunteer/shadow/work experience in pharmacy. Most pharmacy programs expect at least 2 letters of recommendation: 1 science faculty and 1 work/volunteer pharmacy experience.

Most pharmacy programs utilize the PharmCAS application service (www.pharmcas.org). Applicants can apply as early as the summer one year prior to when they plan to enter a program and must take the PCAT exam. The PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test) is offered four times a year: June, August, October and January. The potential applicant needs to take the PCAT no later than October of the year prior to entry. The PCAT has 5 sections: Verbal ability, Quantitative ability, Biology, Chemistry and Reading Comprehension. Scores range from 100-300 with the minimal accepted score in the 50th percentile.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ILLINOIS PHARMACY PROGRAMS

English

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------------------|
| ENG 1001G | 3 | _____ | Comp & Language |
| ENG 1002G | 3 | _____ | Comp & Literature |
| CMN 1310G | 3 | _____ | Speech Com |

Social/Behavioral Sciences

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------------------------|
| PSY 1878G | 3 | _____ | Intro to Psych |
| SOC 2710G | 3 | _____ | Intro to Sociology |
| ECN 2800G | 3 | _____ | Economics of Soc Issues |

Humanities and Fine Arts

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|---------------------|
| PHI 1000G | 3 | _____ | Intro to Philosophy |
| _____ | 3 | _____ | Fine Arts |
| _____ | 3 | _____ | Humanities/FA |

Chemistry

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|---------------------|
| CHM 1310G | 3 | _____ | Gen Chem Lecture |
| CHM 1315G | 1 | _____ | Gen Chem Lab |
| CHM 1410 | 3 | _____ | Gen Chem II Lecture |
| CHM 1415 | 1 | _____ | Gen Chem II Lab |
| CHM 2440 | 3 | _____ | Org Chem Lecture |
| CHM 2445 | 1 | _____ | Org Chem Lab |
| CHM 2840 | 3 | _____ | Org Chem II Lecture |
| CHM 2845 | 1 | _____ | Org Chem Lab |

Biology

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|------------------|
| BIO 1100 | 4 | _____ | Gen Biology |
| BIO 1200G | 4 | _____ | Botany |
| BIO 1300G | 4 | _____ | Animal Diversity |
| BIO 2001G | 4 | _____ | Human Physiology |
| BIO 2200 | 4 | _____ | Human Anatomy |

Physics

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|--------------------|
| PHY 1151G | 3 | _____ | Physics I Lecture |
| PHY 1152G | 1 | _____ | Physics I Lab |
| PHY 1161 | 3 | _____ | Physics II Lecture |
| PHY 1162 | 1 | _____ | Physics II Lab |

Math

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------|------------------------|
| MAT 1441 | 5 | _____ | Calculus |
| MAT 2250 | 4 | _____ | Elementary Statistics* |

*Required only by SIUE

Check each program for their specific requirements

WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE FROM OTHER APPLICANTS?

HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

- Volunteer or work: hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living centers, crisis nursery, rehab centers are a few examples.
- Shadow/volunteer/work with pharmacists in a variety of settings.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Pharmacists are leaders, demonstrated leadership skills are a must.

- Campus, church, and community organizations provide excellent leadership opportunities.

For additional information, please visit the following web sites:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy - <http://www.aacp.org>

Chicago College of Pharmacy, Northwestern University - <http://www.midwestern.edu/ccp>

Chicago State University College of Pharmacy - <http://www.csu.edu/pharmacy/>

Rosalind Franklin University, North Chicago, IL - <http://rosalindfranklin.edu/collegeofpharmacy/>

Southern Illinois College of Pharmacy - <http://www.siu.edu/pharmacy/>

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy - <http://www.uic.edu/pharmacy>

Other pharmacy programs include **St. Louis College of Pharmacy** (Missouri), **Purdue** and **Butler Universities** (Indiana), **Drake University** (Iowa), **University of Iowa**, and **University of Wisconsin-Madison**.

For more information about pre-pharmacy preparation at EIU, please contact us.

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