



PRE-PHARMACY PREPARATION

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
AT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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.

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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:

LANGUAGE*: 9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
ENG 1001G Composition & Language	3		
ENG 1002G Composition & Literature	3		
CMN 1310G Speech Communication	3		

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE*: 9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
PSY 1879G Intro to Psychology	3		
SOC 1838G Intro to Sociology	3		
ECN 2800G Economics of Soc Issues	3		

HUMANITIES/FINE ARTS*: 9 HRS

One course must meet Cultural Diversity requirement

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
PHI 1000G Intro to Philosophy	3		
Fine Arts	3		
Humanities / Fine Arts	3		

CHEMISTRY*: 19 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
CHM 1310G General Chemistry I	3		
CHM 1315G General Chemistry I Lab	1		
CHM 1410G General Chemistry II	3		
CHM 1415G General Chemistry II Lab	1		
CHM 2440 Organic Chemistry I	3		
CHM 2445 Organic Chemistry I Lab	1		
CHM 2840 Organic Chemistry II	3		
CHM 2845 Organic Chemistry II Lab	1		
CHM 3450 *Biochemistry	3		

*Required by some Pharmacy schools

NAME	
E NUMBER	
CATALOG	
AS/AA/ASA DEGREE	
TRANSFER HOURS	

BIOLOGY*: 12 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
BIO 1500 General Biology I	4		
BIO 2210 Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
BIO 2220 Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
BIO 3120 Molecular & Cellular Biology	4		

PHYSICS*: 8 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
PHY 1151G Physics I	3		
PHY 1152G Physics I Lab	1		
PHY 1161G Physics II	3		
PHY 1162G Physics II Lab	1		

MATH*: 8-9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
MAT 2250G Elementary Statistics ¹	4		
MAT 2110G Brief Calculus	4		
OR MAT 1441G Calculus I	5		

* Many courses have math prerequisites. Additional prerequisite classes may be required.

See Undergraduate Catalog.

¹ Required only by SIUE

Check each program for their specific requirements

Departmental Exit Interview is also required prior to leaving EIU.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

Eastern Illinois University
Life Science Building
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920
Phone: 217-581-3126
Email: healthprofessions@eiu.edu

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.

RESOURCES:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

www.aacp.org

Chicago College of Pharmacy, Midwestern University

www.midwestern.edu/ccp

Chicago State University College of Pharmacy

www.csu.edu/pharmacy/

Roosevelt University

www.roosevelt.edu/Pharmacy

Rosalind Franklin University, North Chicago, IL

rosalindfranklin.edu/collegeofpharmacy/

Southern Illinois College of Pharmacy

www.siu.edu/pharmacy/

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy

www.uic.edu/pharmacy

