Preparation for a Profession in Pharmacy

A bachelor’s degree is not required for admissions into most pharmacy schools, although is suggested for some programs. Pharmacy schools expect candidates to demonstrate the intellectual, analytical, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in pharmacy school. Students are strongly advised to balance coursework in the natural sciences with coursework in humanities and social sciences. The General Education component of a Liberal Arts degree provides a sound foundation for demonstrating an interest in and knowledge of a diverse and global society. Candidates should also consider coursework in areas such as anthropology, communication, economics, ethics, logic, psychology, sociology, and statistics.

Most schools base admissions decisions on a balanced combination of the following:

- Grade point average: This varies by school but is usually above a 3.0 minimum.
- PCAT scores (Pharmacy College Admission Test)
- Personal statement from the candidate
- Professional experience (employment, volunteer work, shadowing, etc.)
- Interview
- Recommendations from academic instructors (usually in the sciences), an academic advisor, and a pharmacist

Core Courses for Pharmacy Programs: a minimum requirement

- Engl 101 English Composition I (3) and 102 English Composition II (3)
- Comm 111 Public Speaking (3)
- Math 144 Business Calculus* (3) or Math 242 Calculus I (5)
- Chemistry 211 General Chem. I (5) and 212 General Chem. II (5)
- Chemistry 531 Organic Chemistry I (5) and 532 Organic Chemistry II (5)
- Chem 661 Intro BioChemistry (3) or Chem 662 BioChemistry I (3) and/or Chem 663 BioChemistry II (3) and/or Chem 664 Biochemistry Lab (3) - highly recommended
- Biology 210 General Biology I (4) and 211 General Biology II (4)
- Biology 220 Introduction to Microbiology (4) or BIOL 330 General Microbiology (5)
- Biology 223 Human Anatomy and Physiology (5) or Biology 527 Comparative Anatomy (5) and Biology 534/535 Mammalian Physiology w/lab (5)
- Phys 111 Intro Physics (4) (or one year of high school physics with a grade of B or better). Required for KU School of Pharmacy only.
  
  Note: Physics 213 and 214 might be required for other Pharmacy schools.

- Statistics 370 Elementary Statistics (3) Required for KU School of Pharmacy only.

The core classes above meet the minimum prerequisites for admission to most pharmacy schools, including the University Of Kansas School Of Pharmacy. The University of Missouri at Kansas City requires Calculus and a college level Physics course. Many schools also require advanced courses in Biology and Chemistry. Recommended additional science courses include genetics, biochemistry, and advanced anatomy and physiology courses. Please contact your advisor regarding additional requirements for KU School of Pharmacy.

Admission Test: The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) is required for admission to pharmacy school. The minimum grade point average considered for admission is a 3.0 and the minimum PCAT score is in the 60th percentile or above. To be a competitive applicant, a grade point average of 3.4 and PCAT score in the 70th to 80th percentile or higher is required.
**Application:** The application period for pharmacy school occurs during the fall before the fall semester one wishes to begin pharmacy studies. The application process varies by school. Some schools prefer that students apply directly, and other schools require that students use the Pharmacy College Application Process.

**Midwest Pharmacy Schools:**
- University of Kansas School of Pharmacy [www.pharm.ku.edu](http://www.pharm.ku.edu)
- University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy [www.uchsc.edu/sop](http://www.uchsc.edu/sop)
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy [www.umkc.edu/pharmacy](http://www.umkc.edu/pharmacy)
- Creighton University School of Pharmacy [www.pharmacy.creighton.edu](http://www.pharmacy.creighton.edu)
- SW Oklahoma State University School of Pharmacy [www.swosu.edu/pharmacy](http://www.swosu.edu/pharmacy)
- University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy [www.oupharmacy.com](http://www.oupharmacy.com)

**Important Websites:**
- PCAT registration: [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info)
- PharmCAS [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education [www.acpe-accredit.org/students](http://www.acpe-accredit.org/students)

**Pre-Med Advising Resources**
- Pre-med Student Association: [www.facebookcom/groups/WSUPrePharmacy/](http://www.facebookcom/groups/WSUPrePharmacy/)
- Blackboard site for Pre-Med professions students:
  - Pre-Med information
  - Scholarship Information
  - Speakers
  - Shadowing opportunities
  - To join, send your email address and WSU ID to an advisor listed below.

**LASI 150P** Intro to Health Professions (1) A fall semester class that shows student a wide range of professions, salaries, and admission requirements.

**Pre-Medical Advisors**
- Blake Cicenas: all medical areas blake.cicenas@wichita.edu
- Nancy Krehbiel: all medical areas nancy.krehbiel@wichita.edu