

Pharmacy

Pharmacists are experts on drugs and drug therapy. As such they are vital members of a health care team. Pharmacists package and dispense prescription medications; they are a source of health information; they offer advice on non-prescriptive drugs, preparations, and appliances; and they provide sickroom supplies. They must understand the action and interaction of drugs and are often called upon by health care providers for information about specific drugs or combinations.

Working in Pharmacy



Pharmacist held about 243,000 jobs in 2006. About 62% of pharmacists practice in community pharmacies that are either independently owned or part of a drugstore chain, grocery store, department store, or mass merchandiser (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006). While retail chains have replaced many of the neighborhood drug store pharmacies, pharmacists still have close contact with customers. Physicians and nurses rely on pharmacists to monitor drug problems and to insure that the combination or dosages of medications that patients are taking do not inadvertently harm them. Pharmacists with an interest in academic or research pharmacy often choose to teach in hospitals, universities or medical schools, or pursue a career with a pharmaceutical company.

The growing interest in preventive medicine, the exploding number of new drugs and drug therapies, the increasing age of the population and the expansion of health insurance and medical care prepayment plans should result in a continuing demand for new pharmacists. In 2006, the median annual wage and salary earnings of pharmacists were \$94,520 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Additional Information

Health Professions Advisor

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University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy

Student Services
Campus Box C-238
4200 East Ninth Avenue
Denver, CO 80262
(303) 315-6100
www.uchsc.edu/sop/index.htm

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

1426 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 739-2330
www.aacp.org

Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS)

www.pharmcas.org

Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT)

www.pcatweb.info

CSU Pre-Pharmacy Club

www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/pharm/club.cfm

Human Health Pre-Professional Programs

www.casa.colostate.edu/advising/preprof/index.cfm



Center for Advising and Student Achievement

PHARMACY



Health Track Advising

Professional Programs

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, in 2007 there were 92 accredited schools of pharmacy. Pharmacy programs grant the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.). The Pharm.D. is a 4-year program that requires at least two years of college study prior to admittance, although most (75.9%) applicants have at least three years prior to entering the program, and many (52.5%) have bachelor or advanced degrees.

**For more information about specific pharmacy schools contact:
www.aacp.org**

Last updated 5/09—Information is subject to change.

Admissions Requirements

Admissions requirements are GENERAL and may differ from school to school. Please contact the individual schools to discuss specific admissions requirements.

- Minimum of 60-90 credits of college education
- Competitive cumulative GPA
- Competitive Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) score (not all Pharmacy schools require)
- Application submitted to each school or submitted to Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS, depending on specific school)
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview

Typical Academic Prerequisites

General Biology	(2 semesters with labs)
General Chemistry	(2 semesters with labs)
Organic Chemistry	(2 semesters with labs)
General Physics	(1 or 2 semesters w/labs)
Microbiology	(1 semester with lab)
Biochemistry	(1 semester) *CU
Anatomy & Physiology (8 credits w/labs)	
English Composition	(2 semesters)
Public Speaking	(1 semester)
Mathematics/Statistics	(1 semester Calculus and/or Statistics)
Humanities/Social Sciences	(9 credits)*CU
Economics	(1 semester)
General Education	(22 credits)*CU

Recommended CSU Courses

LIFE 102 and LIFE 103
CHEM 111/112 and CHEM 113/114
CHEM 341, 343 and 344
PH121 and PH122 OR PH 141 and PH 142
MIP 300/302
BC 351
BMS 300/BMS 302, & BMS 301
CO 150, CO 300/301
SPCM 200
MATH 155 or MATH 160
ERHS 307, STAT 301, or STAT 307
Course prefixes AP, ART, BUSINESS, E, EC,HIST, HD,JT, LIT, MATH, PHIL, LANGUAGE, PO,PY,SOC
ECON 202 or 204