



# Prehealth Programs: Pharmacy

CU-BOULDER ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, PREPROFESSIONAL OFFICE  
<http://advising.colorado.edu> (click on prehealth, at left)

## THE PROFESSION

The demand for trained pharmacy professionals has dramatically increased in recent years due to the rapid growth of the health care and pharmaceutical industries, especially for the growing elderly population. Pharmacists are moving from behind the counter to play a pivotal role in a patient's drug management. Career opportunities include retail and hospital pharmacists, consulting positions for clinics and health systems, and biopharmaceutical research. Most graduate pharmacy programs offer a four-year entry level pharmacy curriculum leading to a doctorate of pharmacy (PharmD) degree. There are eighty-eight schools of pharmacy in the U.S. The University of Colorado's SOP is consistently ranked in the top ten.

## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

You may apply to pharmacy school after completing the minimum number of pre-requisite courses, however, the number of successful applicants with a completed baccalaureate degree or more is rising rapidly. For that reason, we recommend that you plan a schedule that will allow you to finish your BA/BS in a major of your choice. Science majors have many courses in common with the pharmacy prerequisites, but you are free to consider any discipline that interests you and in which you will do well.

## PREREQUISITES FOR UCHSC

The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy requires that you complete the courses listed below. Note that all prerequisite courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be completed with at least a grade of "C" (a "C-" or below will not be accepted). AP credit may be accepted on a case by case basis. Course numbers below refer to CU-Boulder courses only, while the semesters in parentheses apply to most schools. However, for information on spe-

cific requirements for schools in other states, refer to catalogs from schools that interest you.

**General Chemistry (2 sems. w/ lab)**  
CHEM 1111 *and* CHEM 1131

**Organic Chemistry (2 sems. w/ lab)**  
CHEM 3311-3321 *and* 3331-3341

**General Biology (2 sems. w/ lab)**  
EBIO 1210-1230 *and* 1220-1240; *or*  
MCDB 1150-1151 *and* MCDB 2150-2151

**Microbiology (1 sem. w/ lab)**  
EBIO 3400

**Biochemistry (1 semester)**  
CHEM 4611 (Note: 1 sem. Organic Chemistry is a pre-requisite on CU campus)

**Human Anatomy (1 semester)**  
IPHY 3410 *and* IPHY 3415

**Human Physiology (1 sem. w/ lab)**  
IPHY 3430 *and* IPHY 3435; *or*  
IPHY 3470 *and* IPHY 3480 *and* IPHY 3435

**English Composition (2 semesters)**  
WRTG 1150 *or* 1250; *and* WRTG 3020, 3030 *or* 3040

**Calculus (1 semester)**  
MATH 1300

**Physics (1 semester algebra- or calculus-based)**  
PHYS 2010

**Public speaking (1 semester)**  
COMM 1300 *or* COMM 2210

**Micro Economics (1 semester)**  
ECON 2010

**Humanities/Social Sciences Electives (3 semesters)**

Any courses or combination of courses from the following departments: psychology, sociology, anthropology (specifically cultural), history, humanities, English (specifically literature or comparative literature), philosophy, art history

## General Electives (22 semester hours)

You are required to take 22 semester hours of electives from any combination of the following areas: science, humanities, social science, mathematics, languages, business, or literature.

The UCHSC School of Pharmacy provides a Transfer Guide for Colorado Colleges on their website.

## Prerequisites for Regis

General Chemistry (2 sems.); Organic Chemistry (2 sems.); General Biology (2 sems.); Microbiology (1 sem. w/ lab); Human Anatomy (1 sem. w/ lab); Human Physiology (1 sem. w/ lab); Calculus (1 sem.); English Composition (1 sem.); Public speaking (1 sem.); Psychology (1 sem.); Social Science Elective (1 sem.); Economics (1 sem.); Philosophy (1 sem.); Religious Studies (1 sem.)

## EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Volunteering or working in a health-related position is important but not required. First, it will help you evaluate your suitability for the profession of pharmacy and reaffirm your commitment; or it may lead you to reflect on your original career goal. Second, as you learn more about the profession, you will also learn about the empathy, commitment, and endurance required of a health-care professional. Third, such efforts demonstrate to admissions committees your sincerity in wanting to help people, as well as your ability to follow through on your responsibilities.

## ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED) AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR PREHEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SAPP)

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is an honors prehealth society for those interested in health careers. Contact with other students with similar interests as yours can

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be very gratifying. You can e-mail AED at [aed@ucsu.colorado.edu](mailto:aed@ucsu.colorado.edu).

The Student Association for Prehealth Professionals (SAPP) represents a community of students at CU-Boulder who are interested in pursuing health-related careers. Its goal is to provide an organization where students interested in all areas of medicine can come together and learn more about the many professions, receive academic or personal guidance, and get detailed advice on applying to graduate schools. Membership is open to all CU students. You can e-mail SAPP at [prhlth@colorado.edu](mailto:prhlth@colorado.edu) or visit their web site at: <http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/prehealth>.

### HELPFUL CONTACTS

You should take the time during your undergraduate career to nurture meaningful relationships with people whom you respect, whether they be professors or professionals you meet during extracurricular work. If a professor's research excites you, try to become part of his or her team! If you are drawn to an individual, follow up on maintaining contact. Some schools require letters of recommendation, and heart-felt letters expressing enthusiastic support are much more helpful than the "boiler-plate" variety that emerge when professors are asked to submit dozens of letters for students who they barely know.

In addition, being part of a network of people working in the field that is your passion can pay off in intangible ways down the road.

## Application Year

Applications are submitted online through a centralized application service called PharmCas ([www.pharmacas.org](http://www.pharmacas.org)). They become available June 1, a full year before you plan to matriculate into pharmacy school. The deadline for the submission of all materials, transcripts, and recommendation letters to PharmCAS is August 31 for the Early Decision process and December 1 for regular decision. To be eligible for the School of Pharmacy at UCHSC, candidates must have a minimum overall grade point (GPA) of 2.5 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in required prepharmacy coursework. Minimum GPAs do not guarantee an interview, however. The UCHSC School of Pharmacy requires the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT).

Further information can be found on the School of Pharmacy's web site at: <http://www.uchsc.edu/sop>. The mailing address is:

University of Colorado  
School of Pharmacy  
Office of Student Services  
4200 E. 9th Ave., C-238  
Denver, CO 80262-238

### UCHSC SCHOOL OF PHARMACY'S ADMISSIONS SELECTION CRITERIA

The Admissions Committee assesses each applicant's credentials and makes interview selections after the December 1 deadline. Selection for interviews is based primarily on overall GPA, including a separate evaluation of GPAs in chemistry, biology and mathematics. In addition, recommendations, the applica-

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tion essay and prepharmacy course deficiencies are considered in the interview selection process.

### OTHER PHARMACY SCHOOLS

A list of pharmacy schools may be found at the website for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy: [www.aacp.org/iss/membership/schools.asp](http://www.aacp.org/iss/membership/schools.asp).

### Vital Statistics (from the CU Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy entering class of 2008)

Total applications received: 1,273  
Ratio of applications to # accepted 8:1  
Percentage Colorado residents: 80  
Mean age of students: 27  
Mean GPA: Cum: 3.4  
Number in class: 150  
Degree conferred upon graduation: Pharm.D.  
Licensure requirements: State Board Exam  
In-state yearly tuition: \$16,446  
Mean annual earnings: begins: \$75,000 (mycareer.com)  
Misc.: Most graduates are employed by retail-chain stores, and secondly by hospitals, while others are consultants or work in home health care, etc. Employment rates: 95-99 percent. There is a shortage of pharmacists nationwide. Pharmacy graduates average three to four job offers upon graduation.

**All information in this publication is subject to change. Please check with the prehealth advisor, or with the appropriate school for up-to-date information.**

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

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