

PRE-PHARMACY RESOURCES

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to pharmacy schools. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

QUICK FACTS

Pharmacy school prepares students to become licensed pharmacists, equipping them with in-depth knowledge of medications, patient care, and healthcare systems. Pharmacy programs are extremely competitive. A **PharmD** is a **doctoral degree** and takes an extensive amount of work and school to complete.

Some things to keep in mind when applying are:

- Applications usually require some combination of these materials: minimum GPA, Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores, observation hours, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, a cover letter, and an interview. Thoroughly read through the requirements each school/program has for admission
 - Program requirements and the application process for each school can be found in the PharmCAS School Directory, www.pharmcas.org/school-directory
 - You can also explore and compare programs here: www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/explore-and-compare
- The **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy** (AACP: www.aacp.org/) has several tables and directories that list out what most schools have as their average GPA of accepted applicants and can be viewed on the AACP website.
 - Admission Requirements: www.aacp.org/resource/pharmacy-school-admission-requirements
- **Shadowing or experiential hour requirements** are usually not part of the admissions process; however, having some experience in a pharmacy setting could help you be a more competitive applicant.
 - Check each program's page thoroughly for **shadowing or experiential hour requirements**.
- The **Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)** is no longer a requirement for admission to pharmacy school as of January 10, 2024. Please check each programs website to see if there is a required entrance exam for their program.
- Your **personal statement** is limited to 1 page and should be **general and not program specific** because it will be used to apply to multiple programs.
 - **PharmCAS** states that your essay should address: **Why you selected pharmacy as a career? How does the PharmD degree relate to your immediate and long-term professional goals?**
- Some schools may require you to submit supplemental materials once you have submitted your application through **PharmCAS**.
 - Often the programs you selected will reach out to you once they have received your common application and request the additional information they want.
 - It is important to thoroughly read through each program's requirements to know what you need to have prepared.
- It is important to check each program's requirements on **letters of recommendation**.
 - Programs could require a reference from **science faculty, a licensed pharmacist or practitioner, or a previous supervisor outside of academics**.
 - It is ideal to acquire at least one pharmacist that you have shadowed or worked with, and most programs require **at least 3 references**.
 - You will be **submitting your reference requests through PharmCAS**. View the **PharmCAS Evaluations guidelines through this link:** www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/evaluations.

COMMON APPLICATION SERVICE (PHARMCAS)

- You will be submitting your application through a common application system, **PharmCAS** (www.pharmcas.org/) to apply to PharmD programs.
 - PharmCAS provides an applicant help center to make the process of applying much easier ([help.liaisonedu.com/PharmCAS Applicant Help Center](http://help.liaisonedu.com/PharmCAS_Applicant_Help_Center)).
 - When applying through a common application service, they will forward your information to the schools you select.

COMMON PREREQUISITES

English Composition I & II
Principles of Biology I & II
Principles of Chemistry I & II
Organic Chemistry I & II
Biochemistry

Microbiology
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II
Probability and Statistics
Calculus

***This is not an exhaustive list. Please research each program's requirement, and please consult with your academic advisor prior to registering for classes.**

KEY NUMBERS

- Minimum GPA: **cumulative 2.5 or higher**
- Average cumulative GPA range: **3.3 - 3.5**

***Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

****Keep in mind that quality outweighs quantity when obtaining hours.**

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INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Several Pre-Pharmacy schools hold interviews as part of the admissions process.

When preparing for professional school interviews, a lot of the same rules apply as with most job interviews.

- Visit **Handshake** to view the Career Center's interview resources and handouts.
- **Practice ahead of time.** "Why do you want to be a pharmacist?" or "Why our program?" are common types of questions that you want to be sure and prepare for.
- Ensure you have **in-depth responses** to interview questions that are specific to you and how you fit into the program you're applying for.
- There are different types of interviews for pharmacy school that could include **speaking with current pharmacy students, an individual faculty member, a current pharmacist, a panel of interviewers, or attend an orientation process.**
 - To become more familiar with interview types and preparation, **book an appointment with a career advisor.**

PRE-PHARMACY AT GCSU

At Georgia College, students interested in pharmacy careers can prepare for PharmD programs through a combination of coursework, advising, and campus engagement. Students from a variety of academic backgrounds can successfully pursue a doctorate in pharmacy studies with careful professional planning and advising.

GCSU offers a **Chemistry major with a Pre-Pharmacy concentration**, which is designed to help students complete the prerequisites needed for pharmacy school while gaining a strong scientific foundation. GCSU also partners with several pharmacy schools to offer eligible students majoring in chemistry an accelerated track to pharmacy school.

- Visit GCSU's Pre-Pharmacy website, www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/chemphys/pre-pharmacy for more information.

Students are also encouraged to join **GCSU's Pre-Pharmacy Club**, which connects students with professionals in the field, offers support with the pharmacy school application process, and provides opportunities to learn about different pharmacy career paths.

RESOURCES

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP):

<https://www.aacp.org/>

AACP - Pharmacy School Admission Requirements:

<https://www.aacp.org/resource/pharmacy-school-admission-requirements>

Compare PharmD Programs:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/explore-and-compare>

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) - Pre-Pharmacy:

<https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/chemphys/pre-pharmacy>

Inspira Advantage - Best Pharmacy School Extracurricular Activities: The Ultimate Guide:

<https://www.inspiraadvantage.com/blog/pharmacy-school-extracurricular-activities>

Pharmacy School Finder - Best Pharmacy School Programs in Georgia:

<https://www.pharmacyschoolfinder.org/pharmacy-programs/georgia/>

PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service):

<https://www.pharmcas.org/>

PharmCAS - Application Instructions:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions>

PharmCAS - Before You Apply:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/before-you-apply>

APharmCAS Deadlines:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/deadlines>

PharmCAS - Evaluations:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/evaluations>

PharmCAS - Mercer University: College of Pharmacy:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/node/32/webform/submission/28>

PharmCAS - Pre-Pharmacy Requirements:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/explore-and-compare/pre-pharmacy-requirements>

PharmCAS - School Directory:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/#/pharmd/general-information>

PharmCAS - University of Georgia: College of Pharmacy:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/node/32/webform/submission/106>

PharmCAS - Verification and GPAs:

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/verification-and-gpas>

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) - Doctor of Pharmacy Program Data:

<https://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/doctor-of-pharmacy/program-data.html>

The Student Doctor Network - South University School of Pharmacy:

<https://www.studentdoctor.net/schools/school/southu-pharm/0/south-university-school-of-pharmacy>

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