



Health Professions Student Center

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Pre-Pharmacy

Pharmacy is more than providing medicines prescribed by a doctor. It's about connecting with patients and improving their lives. It's the practical application of chemistry, math, and biology, mixed with the grace of a caring and compassionate nature. Pharmacists work in a variety of settings, including retail, hospital, clinical, and assisted living, and are often the most trusted member of a patient's healthcare team.

Explore Your Options

Pre-pharmacy is not an undergraduate degree. The academic prerequisites for professional school may be combined with any field of study. You are encouraged to pursue any undergraduate major that interests you, and in which you have a desire to succeed.

WSU students majoring in subjects from art to zoology have gone on to earn advanced degrees at professional schools all over the country.

And at WSU you are not locked into a major. If your interests change, we will work with you to revise your goals and your academic plan.

You may choose to complete your bachelor's degree; however, many Doctor of Pharmacy programs only require the three years of study necessary to meet the prerequisites (see reverse for course listing). After completing these, you'll spend another four years completing your PharmD studies.

Enrolling as an undergraduate at WSU does not guarantee admission to the WSU College of Pharmacy. All applicants are evaluated equally on merit.



The Cougar Advantage

Becoming a successful applicant for an advanced degree requires more than just completing a series of classes. The Health Professions Student Center provides opportunities and resources to help you discover the path that is best for you.

Your Health Professions specialist can guide you through the nuances of preparing for a career in pharmacy:

- Course selection
- Networking and volunteering
- Gaining industry experience
- Essay writing workshops
- Resume reviews
- Practice interviews
- PCAT review and practice
- Requesting recommendation letters
- Reviewing application criteria
- Selecting professional schools

Meeting with both your HPSC specialist and your academic advisor at least once a semester will maximize the combined support and expertise available to you.



Peer Support

With more than 300 active student clubs on campus, you're bound to find one that fits your style.

The WSU Pre-Pharmacy Club provides opportunities to connect with highly motivated students whose goals are similar to your own. Find study partners, get involved in community service projects, gain leadership experience, and attend special lectures and presentations by current pharmacy professionals.

Learn more at facebook.com/WSUPrePharmacyClub. 

✓ Preparing to Apply

The pharmacy school application process is very competitive. Long before you begin to fill out the paperwork, you will need to work diligently to build a portfolio showcasing your academic success, personal achievements, industry experience, career goals, and your compassionate character.

GPA requirements vary from program to program. For the WSU PharmD program, the minimum GPA to apply is 2.70; however, the average GPA of admitted students is 3.45.

Pharmacy schools often look for:

- Evidence of compassion for the sick, injured, elderly, or disabled
- Personal integrity and high ethical standards
- Excellent English speaking and writing skills
- A significant number of hours working or volunteering in a pharmacy
- Experience with several areas of medicine through work or job shadowing
- Evidence of personal leadership, either with organizations or through life experiences
- Volunteer participation that involves compassion for your fellow human beings, such as coaching, teaching, working on blood drives, in a soup kitchen, at a food bank, or on charity fundraisers, and many other possibilities
- Additional language or cultural knowledge (bilingual, foreign language studies, or international experience)

WSU PharmD Prerequisite Courses

These courses may be taken concurrently with classes required for your chosen major at WSU.

Biology (16)

- BIOL 106 Introductory Biology (organismal)
- BIOL 107 Introductory Biology (cell biology and genetics)
- BIOL 315 Gross and Microanatomy
- NEURO 425 Integrated Physiology, plus lab section 426 (alternate option BIOL 353 Advanced Human Physiology)

Chemistry* (16)

- CHEM 105 Principles of Chemistry I
- CHEM 106 Principles of Chemistry II
- CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 348 Organic Chemistry II

Economic Sciences* (3)

- ECON 101 Fundamentals of Microeconomics

Logic, Critical Thinking, Ethics (3)

- PHIL 103, 201 or 365

Mathematics* (8)

- MATH 140 Calculus for Life Scientists (alternate options MATH 171 Calculus I or MATH 202 Calculus for Business and Economics)
- MATH 212 Introduction to Statistical Methods (alternate options PSYCH 311 or MGTOP 215)

Molecular Biosciences (10)

- MBIOS 303 Introductory Biochemistry
- MBIOS 304 Microbiology and Molecular Biology Laboratory
- MBIOS 305 General Microbiology

Psychology (3)

- PSYCH 105 Introductory Psychology

Written Communication (6)

- ENGL 101, plus either ENGL 201, 301, 302 or 402

Additional courses required by other pharmacy schools

- BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics
- MBIOS 401 Cell Biology
- COM 102 Communication in an Information Society
- PHYS 101 General Physics

* Students must meet WSU math standards to enroll.

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