Applying to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA does not offer advanced degrees in pharmacy. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their pharmacy education.

A common timeline for students attending pharmacy school is shown below:

This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Pharmacy schools generally use centralized application services for students applying to their programs.

Most Texas schools and out-of-state schools use PharmCAS, which can be accessed at [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org).

UT-Austin Pharmacy Admission Information

- Students applying to PharmD programs do not have to complete a degree to matriculate to the PharmD program.
- Students must complete all pre-requisite courses prior to matriculation into the PharmD program.
- All pre-requisite courses must have a grade of C– or better.
- UT-Austin has a “FLAG” requirement as part of their degree program. There are six total “FLAG” requirements a student must meet. Five of these are part of the PharmD curriculum. More information on the required “FLAG” courses, can be found at: [http://sites.utexas.edu/pharmacy-admissions/getting-started/coreflag-course-requirements/](http://sites.utexas.edu/pharmacy-admissions/getting-started/coreflag-course-requirements/).
- Students must complete two years of a single foreign language in high school or two semesters of a single foreign language in college before matriculation to the PharmD program.

UT-Austin Pharmacy Pre-requisites

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill pharmacy prerequisites.

Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing pharmacy pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA’s Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine coursework and requirements related to PharmD admissions.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:

- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss pre-requisites, holistic admissions, PCAT preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:

- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment
Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT)

The PCAT is one of the measures used by Pharmacy Schools to determine a student’s eligibility for admission.

Some general information about the PCAT:

- Five subsections:
  1. Writing Prompt
  2. Biological Processes (General Biology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology)
  3. Chemical Processes (General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Basic Biochemical Processes)
  4. Critical Reading (Comprehension, Analysis, Evaluation)
  5. Quantitative Reasoning (Basic Math, Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Pre-calculus, Calculus)
- Total test time: 3 hours, 25 minutes.
- Written essay is scored on a scale of 1-6. Scores for sections 2-5 range from 200-600. 430 represents the 90th percentile.


**Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement**

Admission to pharmacy schools is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in pharmacy-related activities, including community service, working in a pharmacy setting, and involvement on-campus. Pharmacists are considering leaders in health care. As such, students should seek ways to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: [http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html](http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html).
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and pharmacy-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: [https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/](https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/).
- Students are encouraged to shadow pharmacists or obtain their pharmacy technician certificate to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-pharmacy students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA's Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various pharmacy schools.

**Pharmacy Fast Facts**

- There are seven pharmacy schools in Texas. Information about their programs can be found on [www.texashotjobs.org](http://www.texashotjobs.org).
- Information about out-of-state programs can be found on the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education at [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org).
- Additionally, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has current information about teaching and research in various schools of pharmacy. The website is [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org).
- The American Pharmacist Association ([www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)) has information for practicing pharmacists.
- Students seeking certification as pharmacy technicians can attend community colleges across the state for these programs.
- Pharmacy Jobs Outlook:
  - About 61% of pharmacists work in retail.
  - Average annual salary: $119,000
- More information about job outlook and responsibilities for pharmacists can be found on [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org).