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.

UT-Austin Pharmacy Pre-requisites

- BIO 1404: Biosciences I (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 1414: Biosciences II (new format, includes lab)
- BIO 2313: Genetics
- BIO 3713 & BIO 3722: Microbiology & Lab
- CHE 1103 & CHE 1121: General Chemistry I & Lab
- CHE 1113 & CHE 1131: General Chemistry II & Lab
- CHE 2603 & CHE 2612: Organic Chemistry I & Lab
- CHE 3643: Organic Chemistry II
- PHY 1603 & PHY 1611: Algebra-based Physics I & Lab
- STA 1053 OR STA 1403 OR PSY 2073: Statistics
- MAT 1214: Calculus I
- MAT 1224: Calculus II
- WRC 1013: Freshman Composition I
- Literature

UT-Austin Pharmacy Admission Requirements

- 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/.
- 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 requires not only the PharmCAS application but also a supplemental application.
- Three recommendation letters are required to apply to the PharmD program.
- There are generally two application deadlines:
  - Early Deadline: September (subject to change)
  - Regular Deadline: November (subject to change)

Students are encouraged to take additional coursework to better understand science concepts, social science and public health. Here is a list of some optional Biology electives related to pharmacy:

- BIO 3013: Introduction to Clinical Medicine
- BIO 3123: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- BIO 3413: Advanced Physiology
- BIO 3433: Neurobiology
- BIO 3623: Neuropsychopharmacology
- BIO 3713: Microbiology
- BIO 3663: Human Embryology
- BIO 3813: Cellular Biology
- BIO 3913: Molecular Biology
- BIO 4143: Developmental Biology
- BIO 4453: Endocrinology
- BIO 4743: Immunology

Other courses related to medical education, which could benefit a pre-pharmacy student include:

- ANT 3523: Medical Anthropology
- MGT 4953: Introduction to Health Care Management
- MHU 2013: Introduction to Medical Humanities
- HTH 4503: Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 2413 or SOC 1043: Introduction to Public Health
- SOC 3213: Medical Sociology
- SPN 2513: Spanish for Health Careers
- PSY 4253: Psychology and Health

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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.
- 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/.
- 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, held each February, to meet with representatives from various pharmacy schools.

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.