Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Pharmacy

In order to become a pharmacist, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
  note: *Not all pharmacy schools require completion of a bachelors degree for program entry*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework *Pharmcas Program Directory Information*
- take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) *PCAT Test Information*
- obtain shadowing, internship, or volunteer hours as required by program (*see program directory info.)*
- apply through PTCAS.org, some colleges may require additional applications *PTCAS.org*
- complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree from a 4 year pharmacy school program
- pass a state pharmacy licensure exam

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a pharmacy program, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. Pharmacy programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Pharmacy College Centralized Application Services (PHARMCAS.org) is used by the majority of pharmacy schools but individual schools may also require a separate application to their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many pharmacy programs:

BIOL 140, BIOL 141, BIOL 291, BIOL 292

Principles of Bio. I, Principles of Bio. II, Human Anat. & Phys. I, Human Anat. & Phys. II

CHEM 139, CHEM 140, CHEM 241, CHEM 242

General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II

MATH 170, MATH 153

Applied Statistics, Calculus I (by placement)

PHYS 130, PHYS 131 *(some schools require Calculus based Physics PHYS 230 and PHYS 231)*

Introductory Physics I, Introductory Physics II

ECON 231 or ECON 232

Introduction to Microeconomics **OR** Introduction to Macroeconomics

**Advanced coursework in Biology and Chemistry is highly recommended*

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for pharmacy schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

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