

Pre-Pharmacy Fact Sheet

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Student Success
Advising Resources and Support

Prerequisite and Recommended Courses

Pre-pharmacy students should research schools carefully to be aware of all prerequisite courses and other admissions policies, as prerequisites vary among pharmacy programs. Students should meet with a Pre-Health Advisor in their freshman year to develop their timeline for application to pharmacy school.

PREREQUISITES OFTEN REQUIRED FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL

The following courses are commonly required by pharmacy schools:

- General Biology I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - BIO 201/205 & BIO 202/206
- General Chemistry I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - CHM 203/204 & CHM 205/206 or CHM 102, 202/204
- Organic Chemistry I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - CHM 321/322 & CHM 323/324
- General Physics I & II w Labs - 8 hours - PHY 201/205 & PHY 202/206
- Anatomy - 3 hours - EXS 331 or PHA 310
- Calculus - 3-4 hours - MTH 231 or MTH 245
- Statistics - 3 hours - Many options for courses
- Psychology - 3 hours - PSY 201
- Economics - 3 hours - ECO 203 or ECO 205
- English - 6 hours - ENG 150 and ENG 22X
- Speech - 4 hours - COM 101 and Magis Critical Issues in Human Inquiry

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Creighton's pharmacy program requires students to have 6 hours of Theology (often completed via the Magis Core Christian and Biblical Tradition).
- Although not required by Creighton School of Pharmacy, a number of schools *do* require courses in Biochemistry, Physics, Statistics, and/or Physiology.
- Some schools may not regard credit earned through examinations (AP/CLEP/IB) as being equivalent to completing required courses, but they may accept higher-level college courses as substitutes. Research individual schools for their policies regarding AP/CLEP/IB credits for prerequisite courses.

PRE-PHARMACY GROUPS AND RESOURCES

Pre-Pharmacy Club: All pre-pharmacy students should participate in the Pre-Pharmacy Club. This student organization provides leadership opportunities to further explore and gain experience in the pharmaceutical profession. Learn more on CU Involved: <https://cuinvolved.creighton.edu/organization/prepharmacyclub>

Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPAHP): Make an appointment with SPAHP admissions office personnel in the spring of the year applying to personalize the application process.

Creighton Preference: The Creighton Doctor of Pharmacy Program gives preferential admission consideration to Creighton undergraduate students who complete all prerequisite coursework at Creighton. Students who fully participate in the pre-professional communities and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 are guaranteed an interview.

BECOMING A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT

Applicants to pharmacy programs must complete a minimum of 63 credits (two years) of college coursework which includes the pre-pharmacy prerequisites. Some students complete a bachelor's degree prior to entering a pharmacy program. Competitive applicants for admission have solid academic records, well-rounded co-curricular experiences, supportive letters of recommendation, and can clearly articulate their reasons for pursuing the pharmacy profession.

Selecting a Major, Grades, and GPA

Although a bachelor's degree is not required for admission to pharmacy school students should always be on track towards a degree. Ideally, a major should be based on student interests and support an alternate career. Pharmacy schools look for students who demonstrate the academic ability to handle rigorous course loads.

Grades play a crucial role in pharmacy school admissions, reflecting a student's ability to handle challenges. Maintaining grades above a "B" is important, especially in the two years prior to applying. Grades below a "B" or having more than two withdrawals (W) may raise concerns about academic readiness or judgment.

GPA's calculated on pharmacy school applications include coursework done at all colleges attended and all attempts at a course.

Aim for GPA's of **3.0 or above**.

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COURSE SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

Freshmen and sophomores usually take only two natural science or math subjects each semester.

Biology:

General Biology I (BIO 201/205) and General Biology II (BIO 202/206) are typical choices for freshman fall and spring. Completion of either General Chemistry I (CHM 203) with a grade of "C" or better or Introductory General Chemistry 1 (CHM 102) with a grade of "B-" or better is required to take BIO 202.

Chemistry:

General Chemistry I (CHM 203/204) and General Chemistry II (CHM 205/206) are typical choices for freshman fall and spring. To be eligible to take General Chemistry in the freshman year, students must achieve a sufficient score on the Quantitative Assessment for New Students (QANS). Students who do not achieve a sufficient QANS score will need to complete CHM 102 with a grade of "B-" or better to progress to CHM 202.

Math:

Pre-pharmacy students are required to complete a calculus course. MTH 231 or MTH 245 will fulfill this requirement. Additionally, MTH 141 is acceptable for pre-pharmacy students pursuing business degrees. Math, physics, and chemistry majors will need more than one semester of calculus and should take MTH 245.

Sample First Semester Schedule

Course sequencing may vary depending on a student's readiness

- General Biology w/ Lab (4 hours)
- General Chemistry I w/ Lab (4 hours)
- Magis Core Class (3 or 4 hours) - ENG or Critical Issues & COM 101
- Magis Core Class (3 hours) - PHL or THL
- Maybe another Magis Core Class (3 hours)
- RSP Class (.5 hours)
- Pre-Professional Community (0 hours)

CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

Volunteer & Service

It is important to demonstrate sustained commitment over time. Students should have service experiences in healthcare and non-healthcare settings. Check out the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice for opportunities:
<https://www.creighton.edu/scsj>.

Shadowing

Students must gain knowledge of the profession by shadowing current professionals in their field. Students should shadow pharmacists in a variety of settings, if possible.

Research

Research experience is not a requirement for admission to pharmacy programs, but may add an extra layer to an application if the student is particularly interested in research. See the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship for opportunities:
www.creighton.edu/curas.

Leadership and Teamwork

Students must demonstrate leadership and interpersonal skills. Consider initiating group projects, serving as an officer in a student organization, or working as a teaching assistant. Students must also demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively.

Healthcare Experience

Students should pursue hands-on patient experience through volunteering or employment, such as working as a Pharm Tech, CNA, EMT, or rehabilitation aide.

Building Relationships

Pharmacists must connect with diverse individuals and make patients feel at ease. Pursue experiences that develop interpersonal skills and expose you to people from various backgrounds.

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