

PRE-PHARMACY RESOURCES

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to pharmacy schools. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

QUICK FACTS

Pharmacy school prepares students to become licensed pharmacists, equipping them with in-depth knowledge of medications, patient care, and healthcare systems. Pharmacy programs are extremely competitive. A **PharmD** is a **doctoral degree** and takes an extensive amount of work and school to complete.

Some things to keep in mind when applying are:

- You will be submitting your application through a common application system, **PharmCAS**: www.pharmcas.org/.
 - Program requirements and the application process for each school can be found in the PharmCAS School Directory, www.pharmcas.org/school-directory
- The **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy** (AACP) has several tables and directories that list out what most schools have as their average GPA of accepted applicants and can be viewed on the AACP website.
 - www.aacp.org/resource/pharmacy-school-admission-requirements
- Check each program's page thoroughly for **shadowing or experiential hour requirements**.
- The **Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)** is no longer a requirement for admission to pharmacy school as of January 10, 2024. Please check each programs website to see if there is a required entrance exam for their program.

PRE-PHARMACY AT GCSU

- GCSU partners with several pharmacy schools to offer eligible students majoring in chemistry an accelerated track to pharmacy school.**
- Visit GCSU's Pre-Pharmacy website, www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/chemphys/pre-pharmacy.

PERSONAL STATEMENT & SECONDARY APPLICATIONS/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Personal Statements** used to apply to pharmacy school should be **general and not program specific**.
 - When applying through a common application service, they will forward your information to the schools you select including your general personal statement.
 - PharmCAS** states that your essay **"should address why you selected pharmacy as a career and how the Doctor of Pharmacy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals. Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals."**
- Some schools may require you to submit supplemental materials once you have submitted your application through **PharmCAS**.
 - Often the programs you selected will reach out to you once they have received your common application and request the additional information they want.
 - It is important to thoroughly read through each program's requirements to know what you need to have prepared.
- It is important to check each program's requirements on **letters of recommendation**.
 - Programs could require a reference from **science faculty, a licensed pharmacist or practitioner, or a previous supervisor outside of academics**.
 - It is ideal to acquire at least one pharmacist that you have shadowed or worked with, and most programs require **at least 3 references**.
 - You will be submitting your reference requests through PharmCAS. View the **PharmCAS Evaluations guidelines through this link**: <https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/evaluations>.

COMMON PREREQUISITES

English Composition I & II
Principles of Biology I & II
Principles of Chemistry I & II
Organic Chemistry I & II
Biochemistry

Microbiology
Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II
Probability and Statistics
Calculus

KEY NUMBERS

- Minimum GPA: **cumulative 2.5 or higher**
- Average cumulative GPA range: **3.3 - 3.5**

***Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

****Keep in mind that quality outweighs quantity when obtaining hours.**

***This is not an exhaustive list. Please research each program's requirement, and please consult with your academic advisor prior to registering for classes.**

PRE-PHARMACY RESOURCES



110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to pharmacy schools. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.

INTERVIEW PREPARATION

When preparing for professional school interviews, a lot of the same rules apply as with most job interviews.

- Visit **Handshake** to view the Career Center's interview resources and handouts.
- **Practice ahead of time.** "Why do you want to be a pharmacist?" or "Why our program?" are common types of questions that you want to be sure and prepare for.
- Ensure you have **in-depth responses** to interview questions that are specific to you and how you fit into the program you're applying for.
- There are different types of interviews for pharmacy school that could include **speaking with current pharmacy students, an individual faculty member, a current pharmacist, a panel of interviewers, or attend an orientation process.**
 - To become more familiar with interview types and preparation, **book an appointment with a career advisor.**

SOURCES

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) – Pharmacy Education 2024 FAQs

<https://www.aacp.org/pharmed24-faqs>

AACP - Pharmacy School Admission Requirements

<https://www.aacp.org/resource/pharmacy-school-admission-requirements>

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) – Pre-Pharmacy

<https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/chemphys/pre-pharmacy>

Inspira Advantage – Best Pharmacy School Extracurricular Activities: The Ultimate Guide

<https://www.inspiraadvantage.com/blog/pharmacy-school-extracurricular-activities>

Pearson – PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test)

<https://www.pearsonassessments.com/graduate-admissions/pcat/about.html>

Pharmacy School Finder – Best Pharmacy School Programs in Georgia

<https://www.pharmacyschoolfinder.org/pharmacy-programs/georgia/>

PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service)

<https://www.pharmcas.org/>

PharmCAS – Application Instructions

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions>

PharmCAS – Before You Apply

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/before-you-apply>

PharmCAS – Evaluations

<https://www.pharmcas.org/application-instructions/evaluations>

PharmCAS – Mercer University: College of Pharmacy

<https://www.pharmcas.org/node/32/webform/submission/28>

PharmCAS – Pre-Pharmacy Requirements

<https://www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/explore-and-compare/pre-pharmacy-requirements>

PharmCAS – School Directory

<https://www.pharmcas.org/school-directory/#/pharmd/general-information>

PharmCAS – University of Georgia: College of Pharmacy

<https://www.pharmcas.org/node/32/webform/submission/106>

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) – Doctor of Pharmacy Program Data

<https://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/doctor-of-pharmacy/program-data.html>

The Student Doctor Network (sdn) – South University School of Pharmacy

<https://www.studentdoctor.net/schools/school/southu-pharm/0/south-university-school-of-pharmacy>