

Pre-Pharmacy Quick

Pharmacists (those with Pharm.D. degrees) provide the dispensation of medicine and consultation with patients. Pharmacists work in a wide range of settings: 45% of pharmacists work in community pharmacies, while 55% work in hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, nursing homes, government agencies, universities, and other settings.

An undergraduate degree is not required for admission into most pharmacy schools, although over half of new pharmacy students have completed at least a bachelor's degree. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider their options before leaving an undergraduate program to pursue the Pharm.D., especially as admission into these programs becomes increasingly competitive.

How do I get a Pharm.D. degree at the University of Houston?

Pre-pharmacy is not a major at UH. Instead, you may select any major in which you are interested. You must then complete all application requirements, including pre-requisite coursework (*see below*), take the PCAT test, and apply using the PharmCAS application. You are not required to finish your undergraduate degree to begin the UH Pharm.D. program—although the Pre-Health Advising Center does encourage students to do so.

Required Courses

UH College of Pharmacy Pre-Requisites*

Biology: BIOL 1306/1106 & 1307/1107

Calculus: MATH 2413

English: ENGL 1301 & ENGL 1302

General Chemistry: CHEM 1311/1111 & 1312/1112

Organic Chemistry: CHEM 2323/2123 & CHEM 2325/2125

Genetics: BIOL 3301

Microbiology: BIOL 2321/2121

Physics: PHYS 1301 (*lab not required*)

Psychology or Sociology: PSYC 2301 or SOCI 1301

Statistics: MATH 1342 or 3339 or PSYC 2317

Core Requirements: History, Political Science, Creative Arts, Language/Philosophy/Culture, Writing in the Disciplines

***DISCLAIMER:** This list includes only [UH College of Pharmacy](#) requirements—though other pharmacy programs have similar requirements. Please refer to pharmacy program websites for specific requirements regarding coursework and AP/IB credit before applying. You may also meet with an advisor in the Pre-Health Advising Center to discuss other options.

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)

The PCAT is a standardized exam that some pharmacy schools use for admission. Of the 9 Pharmacy programs in Texas, one recommends taking the PCAT (TSU), one does not require or consider the PCAT (UT Tyler), and the remaining 7 consider the PCAT to be optional. The PCAT is typically given during four testing periods per year: July, September, January, and February. Additional dates are sometimes available in October and November.

The test covers: biology, microbiology, anatomy & physiology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, math (including calculus), reading, writing, and verbal abilities. Although scaled scores are provided, most schools discuss scores in terms of **percentiles**. Applicants should plan to take the exam no later than July in the year they apply. This allows the applicant to retest in September, if necessary. **Applicants should take the exam several times to achieve their highest score.**

Letters of Evaluation

Typically, you will need to submit three letters of evaluation for admission into pharmacy school. It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet letter requirements for the pharmacy programs in which you are interested in applying.

The University of Houston College of Pharmacy requires applicants submit 3 letters of evaluation, including:

- a letter from a licensed pharmacist practicing or having practiced in the US
- a letter from a pharmacist, professor, teaching assistant, academic/ faculty advisor, employer, or supervisor in the US.

Average Matriculant

- Overall GPA: 3.51
- Math/Science GPA: 3.42
- PCAT: 79% or higher (if applicable)
- 56% of accepted applicants have B.S.
- 9 Pharm.D. programs in Texas

Pharmacy Experience, Shadowing, and Volunteering

As in any career choice, applicants should confirm their decision to become a pharmacist through **personal experience**. Such experience ranges from shadowing a pharmacist, working in a pharmacy, participating in related research, and learning more about different fields. **Keep track of all experience** (date, location, description) because some schools request a listing when you apply. Further, many schools (including UH) require a letter of evaluation from a licensed pharmacist for admission.

Working in a pharmacy as a **Certified Pharmacy Technician** (CPhT) is a great way to obtain long-term exposure to the daily life of pharmacist. In Texas, you must pass the exam given by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and pass a background investigation by the State of Texas. Beginning January 1, 2020, completion of a PTCB-recognized education/training program OR equivalent work experience will be required of all new CPhT applicants. Additionally, some shadowing and internship programs require you have your PharmTech trainee certification in order to participate. You should gain certification as soon as possible so that you are able to participate in activities.

Finally, the University of Houston College of Pharmacy requires **at least 25 hours of community service and involvement**. Admissions committees are looking for applicants who not only demonstrate that they can perform well in rigorous courses, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Volunteering can be done in a clinical setting such as a hospital or hospice, but it can also be done with student or off-campus organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society, or anything else that you passionate about.

UH College of Pharmacy Application Timeline & Deadlines

Junior Year (or Freshman Year if not completing degree)

Fall	Meet with UH College of Pharmacy Admissions Counselor Start working on Pharm.D. pre-requisites coursework Start volunteering (25 hours required) Connect with pharmacists and professors
Spring	Continue completing and doing well in coursework Continue connecting with pharmacists/professors and request letters of evaluation Take PCAT in January or February
Summer	PharmCAS Application opens July 18 Confirm letters of evaluation (give letter-writers at least 1-month to compose) Take PCAT in July (if necessary)

Senior Year (or Sophomore Year if not completing degree)

Fall	Early Decision Deadline is September 3 Finish application Take PCAT in September (if necessary) Interviews begin October 21-November 1 Final Deadline is January 6
Spring	Finish pre-requisite coursework Take PCAT in January or February (if necessary)
Summer	Finish pre-requisite coursework (if necessary)