

## PREPARATION FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL (Tentative Timeline)

- Choose a **Major** that you are interested in and that fulfills the pharmacy prerequisites within the major. The most common majors are Chemistry (Biochemistry concentration) and Biology. It is not necessary to be a science major to apply to pharmacy schools.
- Visit the **CSUS pre-health Home Page**: [www.csus.edu/prehealth/index.html](http://www.csus.edu/prehealth/index.html)
- Visit the **Career Center**, Lasse Hall 1013, during drop-in hours, M-F, 10 am – 4 pm, for information on identifying career options, writing resumes and cover letters; locating part-time, full-time, internships, and volunteer positions; writing personal statements for graduate and professional schools; and practicing your interviewing techniques.
- Research and select the pharmacy schools you wish to apply to.
- Complete the **Pre-Requisite Courses** for pharmacy school.
  - o It is important to check with each school – the suggested Required Courses on the following page are what MOST pharmacy schools require. Course requirements vary significantly.
  - o The annual publication of the **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR)** lists the specific requirements of all the pharmacy colleges and schools: [www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/admissionrequirements/pages/default.aspx](http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/admissionrequirements/pages/default.aspx). (A copy is available in the Natural Sciences Advising Center office, SQU 208).
  - o **The Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS)** also has very useful information regarding the various Pharmacy Schools' requirements: [www.pharmCAS.org/](http://www.pharmCAS.org/)
- If possible, sign up for **Extracurricular Activities** such as working in a pharmacy, volunteering, job shadowing, and academic research.
  - o Taking the **Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)** test to become PTCB Certified, then California State Licensed, can improve your chances of finding jobs, volunteering, and shadowing opportunities in pharmacies.
  - o Keeping track of the dates and total hours spent on extracurricular activities will help when filling out the PharmCAS application.
- Join campus clubs and organizations such as the **Future Pharmacist Student Organization**.
  - o Visit their current website and Facebook page: [sacfpso.weebly.com](http://sacfpso.weebly.com) and [www.facebook.com/sac.fps](http://www.facebook.com/sac.fps)
- Begin working on your **personal statement (essay)** – Visit [www.csus.edu/prehealth/personalstatement.html](http://www.csus.edu/prehealth/personalstatement.html) and the Career Center to get started.
- Study for and take the **Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)**. It is offered July, September, November, and January. (Visit <http://www.pcatweb.info> for more information)
  - o None of the pharmacy schools in California currently require the PCAT. Most out-of-state schools do require it.
- Select professionals who will write you strong **Letters of Recommendation**.
  - o A letter of recommendation from a pharmacist and professor is usually required, and up to four letters are usually accepted. The same letters will be forwarded to all schools you apply to from PharmCAS.
  - o Your evaluators must send an electronic letter of reference through PharmCAS. It includes a questionnaire about you.
  - o Some schools may require that the letters be sent directly to them.
- Arrange to have official transcripts with current grades sent to PharmCAS, and a copy for yourself to enter into PharmCAS.
- **PharmCAS** is a centralized application service used by almost 90% of the pharmacy schools in the United States. PharmCAS applications are available early June, and the application deadlines range from November to March depending on the school. Schools with Rolling Admissions favor applicants who apply sooner. Have a copy of your official transcripts and list of activities with you while completing the application.
  - o Check the PSAR guide and PharmCAS website to see which schools participate in PharmCAS and do not.
- Most schools require **Supplemental Applications** with additional essays to complete and send directly to them.
- Prepare for and attend your in-person **Interviews** that all pharmacy schools require before acceptance.

Visit the web site of the **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy** at: [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org) for information about the PCAT and PharmCAS, along with other helpful information about preparing for and applying to pharmacy school.

**GPA Profile of Admitted Students (2014): Mean Undergraduate 3.36; Mean Science 3.23; Mean Non-Science 3.57**

**Required Courses for most Pharmacy Schools:**

**BIO 1:** Biodiversity, Evolution & Ecology  
**BIO 2:** Cells, Molecules & Genes  
**CHEM 1A:** General Chemistry  
**CHEM 1B:** General Chemistry  
**CHEM 24:** Organic Chemistry I  
**CHEM 124:** Organic Chemistry II  
**CHEM 25:** Organic Chemistry Lab  
**CHEM 161:** Biochemistry (some schools require **CHEM 160A** and **CHEM 160B** instead)  
**PHYS 5A\*:** General Physics I (some schools require a second semester of physics – **PHYS 5B**)  
**MATH 26A\*:** Calculus I (some schools require a second semester of calculus **MATH 26B**)  
**STAT 1:** Introduction to Statistics  
**ENG 1A:** College Composition  
**ENG 20:** College Composition

**BIO 22\*\*:** Human Anatomy  
**BIO 131\*\*:** Systemic Physiology  
**BIO 139:** General Microbiology  
**BIO 121:** Molecular Cell Biology

\*Schools will typically accept the higher-level or more difficult series of a class, such as PHYS 11 or MATH 30

\*\*BIO 25 and BIO 26 in series may be accepted if both are taken

**Recommended General Education Courses (courses in bold are REQUIRED by most schools):**

**AREA A**

A1: **COMS 4 or COMS 5:** Introduction to public speaking  
A2: ENG 5: College Composition  
A3: PHIL 4: Critical Thinking

**AREA B** Met by science prerequisites

**AREA C**

C1: ANY  
C2: PHIL 2: Ethics

**AREA D**

**PSYCH 2:** Introduction to Psychology  
**SOC 1:** Introduction to Sociology  
**ECON 1A:** Introduction to macroeconomic Analysis (some schools may require **ECON 1B**)  
ANTH 101: Cultural Diversity  
ETHN 100: Ethnic America (writing intensive course)  
PHIL 101: Ethics & Social Issues (writing intensive course)  
PHIL 104: Bioethics  
SOC 120: Ethnic and Race Relations  
SWRK 151: Health Services and Systems  
GOV 1 or GOV 150 &  
HIST 17A or 17 B

**AREA E**

HLSC 124: Consumer Health Education  
HLSC 134: Understanding Human Sexuality  
NURS 160: Human Sexuality  
PHIL 100: Ethics and Personal Values  
PSYCH 151: Psychological Aspects of Death/ Dying

Any other rigorous courses applied to Pharmacy, Drugs, Healthcare, Physiology, or Chemistry may help in admissions and provide good background knowledge. **BIO 195P:** Internships may be taken for credit, in a pharmacy if possible. NURS 14: Pharmacology may be taken as an elective.