



# PHARMACY— Major Steps

\*\* Use this information sheet as a guide only. Please verify all admission requirements with your transfer school.

## Thinking about a career as a Pharmacist?

While in High School, enroll in

- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English. Develop strong writing skills
- Calculus, Statistics
- Chemistry and Biology classes
- Computer classes particularly Word and Excel will be helpful
- Public Speaking/ Interpersonal Communication classes

Pharmacists are licensed professionals who dispense medication as prescribed by doctors and health care workers. They also plan and monitor drug schedules for patients. Typically they work in hospitals, drug stores or retail outlets. However, pharmacists are also able to work in government agencies, the military and public health. Being a pharmacist requires strong attention to detail as mistakes could jeopardize the health and well-being of a patient. Pharmacists must have a solid knowledge and understanding of chemistry, biology and mathematics. They must also be effective communicators and be able to think critically and problem solve.

Entrance to pharmacy programs is highly competitive. Pharmacists often attend college for a period of at least six years, four of which are dedicated to preparation as a pharmacist. Upon completion of their program, pharmacists will have earned their doctorate. (Pharm.D)

Source: Washington Occupation Information System (WOIS).

To learn more about a career in pharmacy , go to [www.wois.org](http://www.wois.org)

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### **Working with your faculty advisor**

Working with a pre-pharmacy faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and good guidance about careers in pharmacy. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty member who knows you well can enhance your application to a pharmacy program in the future.

To request a faculty advisor, go to: [www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm](http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm) or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to: [www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/](http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/)

Interested in exploring more about a career in pharmacy?  
Call for an appointment with a Highline Community College counselor at (206) 878-3710, ext. 3353.

There are only two universities in Washington state that offer pharmacy as a major:

**The University of Washington- Seattle and Washington State University.**

The pharmacy major itself is a four-year program known as the PharmD program—Doctor of Pharmacy program.

To apply, you must have two to three years of prerequisite courses, most of which can be completed at Highline Community College. See page 3 of this information sheet for a list of prerequisite courses.

The pharmacy program at both universities accepts students once a year in the fall.

Please note: International students who hold student visas (for example: F-1 visas) are NOT eligible to apply to both the UW and WSU pharmacy programs. If you are an international student in this category, you might wish to apply to an out-of-state pharmacy program, especially those programs that are offered at private institutions. Be sure to double check with your university regarding your visa classification and verify your eligibility for applying.



**DISCLAIMER:**

**Every effort had been made to provide current, accurate  
publication content.  
Students should seek additional information from HCC and  
university advisors.**

## PHARMACY PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Admission is highly competitive and is based on a number of factors including cumulative grade point average, prerequisite grade point average, PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test) scores (**not required for the WSU Program**), on-site pre-interview essay, interview results and all application materials. Competition varies from year to year depending upon the size and strength of the applicant pool.

Number of seats available per year: 86 (UW) 94 (WSU)

Check the UW and WSU Web sites for more information regarding the average cumulative GPA and prerequisite GPA of admitted students. Applicants with a cumulative GPA and a prerequisite GPA below 3.0 are not generally considered competitive.

### **PREREQUISITE COURSES (UW)—To be completed by the end of the Spring quarter of the year of admission**

BIOL& 211, BIOL&212, BIOL&213, BIOL&260 (all courses)

CHEM &161, CHEM&162, CHEM&163, CHEM&261, CHEM&262, CHEM&263 (all courses)

MATH&146 or BUSN 210

MATH&148 or MATH&151

ENGL&101 and one of the following: ENGL&235 or ENGL 205

Social Sciences: 10 credits (Note: Starting Fall 2011, **Micro**economics -ECON&201- is required for admission)

Humanities: 10 credits (Include CMST&210 or CMST&220 as part of the 10 credits. Do NOT enroll for CMST&101)

Although Biochemistry is not required at the present time, it is highly recommended that applicants complete 2 quarters of biochemistry. UW offers Biochem 405 and 406 via UW Educational Outreach ([www.outreach.washington.edu/uweo](http://www.outreach.washington.edu/uweo)) for non-matriculated students. HCC does not offer this course.

### **PREREQUISITE COURSES (WSU)—The following science courses must be completed by the end of the Spring quarter of the year of admission**

BIOL& 211, BIOL&212, BIOL&213, BIOL&241, BIOL&242, BIOL&260, (all courses)

CHEM &161, CHEM&162, CHEM&163, CHEM&261, CHEM&262, CHEM&263 (all courses)

MATH&146 or BUSN 210

MATH&148 or MATH&151

Biochemistry (WSU's MBIOS 303)-you can enroll for this course via WSU's Distance Learning

Genetics or Molecular Genetics (WSU's BIOL 301 or MBIOS 404)—Biol 301 is also offered via WSU's Distance Learning and at the UW. Students can also check with some of the Seattle private schools as well to see if those classes are offered.

The following 4 prerequisites must be completed by the end of the summer term before beginning the PharmD program:

1. ENGL 205 2. ECON&201 (Microeconomics, NOT Macroeconomics) 3. PSYC& 100 4. PHIL&106 or PHIL 110 or PHIL 115

### **Important note for the WSU Pharmacy program:**

In addition to all of the above WSU pre-requisites, you are also required to take a number of other lower-division General Education Requirements before you are able to graduate from the pharmacy program.

*However*, students who have completed an approved AA/AS Direct Transfer Associate (DTA) degree at a Washington community college (at Highline, this is the AA Option A degree) or a BA/BS degree at an accredited American college or university are considered to have fulfilled the University Core Requirements.

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR PHARMACY TRANSFER:

- ◆ Be sure to study the Web site of your pharmacy program carefully. The Web site will provide updated information regarding prerequisite courses, GPA, required (if any) healthcare experience, application deadlines and other relevant details.
- ◆ Apply early. You must meet the application deadlines!
- ◆ Applying to pharmacy school requires two applications: one to PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service), a centralized application service for applicants applying to colleges and schools of pharmacy as well as a supplemental application to the university. Some out of state colleges may or may not use PharmCAS. Check with your college. You need to know what documents to submit to PharmCAS and to the university.
- ◆ Read the directions for completing your application CAREFULLY and be sure to follow the steps in the right order.
- ◆ When composing your Professional Goals Statement/Application Essay, be sure to read and follow directions CAREFULLY.
- ◆ Be sure to submit your letters of recommendation in a timely fashion. It is important to give your references enough time to write a strong letter of support on your behalf. Inform them of the deadline for your application. Read the university's Web site to find out who you should ask to write your letters of support.
- ◆ Keep enhancing your writing skills—remember that you have to write an essay during your interview for both the UW and WSU.
- ◆ Attend a pharmacy information session at the University of Washington. Access their Web site to find out when you can attend the session. At the workshop, the UW pharmacy advisor will cover prerequisites courses, gpa, application timeline and other important application requirements. You will also be able to ask questions during the session.
- ◆ If you are interested in applying to Washington State University, please be sure to make an appointment to speak with a WSU admissions advisor who visits Highline Community College each quarter. The advisor will be able to meet with you for 30 minutes to help you plan your pharmacy transfer. To find out when the advisor will be at Highline Community College each quarter, send an email to [transfer@highline.edu](mailto:transfer@highline.edu), or watch out for flyers posted on campus.
- ◆ **REMEMBER:** It is YOUR responsibility to insure that your application to the School of Pharmacy is complete!

## Listing of Washington State Pharmacy Programs & Pharmacy Web sites

### University of Washington School of Pharmacy

[www.washington.edu](http://www.washington.edu)

Email: [pharminf@u.washington.edu](mailto:pharminf@u.washington.edu)

**NOTE:** The UW Pharmacy School offers information sessions for prospective students. Each session addresses all aspects of the program: admissions, program prerequisites, required gpa, application timeline, interview process, etc. Check out their Web site for a list of session dates/times.

### Washington State University College of Pharmacy

[www.wsu.edu](http://www.wsu.edu)

Email: [Admissions@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:Admissions@pharmacy.wsu.edu)

**NOTE:** A general Admissions Advisor visits Highline every quarter to help students with their pharmacy transfer planning. For visit dates, email: [transfer@highline.edu](mailto:transfer@highline.edu)

### American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

A resource providing general information about educational, degree and career options in pharmacy.

[www.aacp.org/](http://www.aacp.org/)

### Washington State Board of Pharmacy

[www.doh.wa.gov/Pharmacy](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Pharmacy)

### PharmCAS

[www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org)

### Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)

[www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info)