Pre-Pharmacy Advising Guide

PacificU.edu/pharmd

The School of Pharmacy at Pacific University offers a unique three-year curriculum for the degree Doctor of Pharmacy, compared to most pharmacy programs which take four years to complete. Courses are offered in a modified block design, allowing students to study one primary topic at a time before moving on to another major content area. Our program does not use grades, instead courses use a Pass/No-Pass competency-based design to reduce competition and encourage teamwork among students. Experiential training in real pharmacies is integrated throughout the first two course-based, on-campus years of the program, and the off-campus third year is devoted entirely to advanced clinical experiences in a variety of pharmacy settings.

At Pacific, we emphasize integration of pharmacy concepts, as well as teamwork and collaboration among students. As one of several health professions programs offered at Pacific's Hillsboro Campus, we also emphasize interprofessional cooperation among the healthcare team. Developing opportunities for student interaction and collaboration is a focus of the faculties from the different disciplines.

The School of Pharmacy is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), meaning we are fully licensed to dispense Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. We admitted our first class in the Fall of 2006 and today, our average class size is about 100 students.

If you are particularly interested in become a leader in pharmacy administration, or in pursuing a career in pharmacy research, accepted students can also apply for two joint degree programs. These are the PharmD/Masters in Health Care Administration, and the PharmD/Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The School is located in the state-of-the-art Health Professions buildings in Hillsboro, Oregon. The Hillsboro Campus provides a rich and diverse learning environment, is conveniently located along the TriMet MAX commuter train line just a couple stops from various housing areas, and students get access to yearly TriMet passes at very low rates.

Mission

We foster a learner-centered community that prepares leaders, scholars, and providers to elevate the pharmacy profession and interprofessional patient-focused care.

Vision

Develop caring, influential, innovative pharmacists who lead the advancement of public wellness, interprofessional collaboration, and research.

Values
Innovation & Leadership
Collaboration & Collegiality
Integrity & Compassion
Diversity & Inclusion
Excellence & Advancement

The competency-based curriculum delivers courses in a modified block design. Students study one primary topic over a two week period, take an exam on the topic first individually and then as a group, before moving on to another major content area. In addition to the two-week block courses, there are three longitudinal courses which occur on one day every two weeks. This method of education allows students to master each primary topic with a high level of understanding, promotes the integration of concepts in a sequential manner, and still allows for repeated exposure to longitudinal topics which benefit from routine practice. The Pass/No-Pass competency-based design encourages teamwork and collaboration among students, and removes the competitive nature which is characteristic of many professional curriculums. Team teaching by faculty, and the utilization of technology further enhance the student's experience at Pacific University School of Pharmacy.

The experiential component of the curriculum, wherein students learn “on the job” in real pharmacies in the community, is integrated throughout the student's first and second on-campus years. During the first semester students take a course to prepare them to work and learn in community pharmacies over the next two years. During the final semester of the second year, students take another course to prepare them for the third year, which is devoted entirely to advanced clinical experiences. During this final year, students get the opportunity to experience a variety of pharmacy settings during eight, 6-week long rotations which cover both required and elective types of pharmacy settings.

Prerequisites at the Undergraduate Level

The applicant must complete a minimum of 62 semester hours of prerequisite courses at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. Competitive candidates are recommended to have a minimum of a 2.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, and have received a grade of “C” or better in all prerequisite courses. GPA is calculated by PharmCAS, a pharmacy specific online application system, which includes courses from all institutions attended. Courses taken pass/fail or by correspondence will not be accepted. Science prerequisite courses must be for science majors and include laboratory components as indicated below. Low level non-science major courses will be unacceptable in meeting the requirements. The program does NOT grant advanced standing for any course. While a bachelor’s degree is NOT required in order to apply to the program, it may make an applicant more competitive. Pacific does NOT require an applicant to take the PCAT, a pharmacy specific entrance exam.
It is recommended that the science prerequisites be completed within seven calendar years of the time of application to the program. The applicant must report all coursework completed (passed and failed) to reveal their full educational history. Not doing so will forfeit the applicant’s eligibility for admission. All materials submitted to Pacific University for admission become the property of the University and will not be returned or released.

**Biological Sciences - min. 19 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- General Biology w/labs - 8 semester hours
- Microbiology (lab NOT required) - 3 semester hours
- Human Anatomy and Human Physiology w/labs- 8 semester hours
  Human A&P series preferred/upper level series for both a minimum/with all parts taken at the same institution preferred

**Chemistry - min. 16 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- General Chemistry w/labs - 8 semester hours
- Organic Chemistry w/labs - 8 semester hours

**Physics - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- General or upper-level Physics w/lab - 3 semester hours

**Mathematics Calculus - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- Must include Calculus - 3 semester hours

**English - 6 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- Must include English composition - 3 semester hours
- Other English - 3 semester hours HUM 100 (FYS) can count towards this requirement. Other options include: Composition, Literature, Creative Writing, Poetry, etc.

**Speech - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- May include Speech, Communication, Debate - 3 semester hours
- MEDA 101, MEDA 110, or MEDA 201 will count

**Psychology - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- Must include Intro/General or Abnormal psychology - 3 semester hours

**Economics - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- Must include Micro or Macro - 3 semester hours

**Social/Behavioral Sciences - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- May include Anthropology, Geography, Government, Human Development, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology - 3 semester hours

**Humanities/Fine Arts - 3 semester hours (Quarter credits ÷ 1.5 = semester credits)**
- May include Foreign Language, Drama, Geography, History, Religion, Philosophy, Literature, Performance Arts, Visual Arts, Drama - 3 semester hours

Last Revised – April 2017 by JF
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