

PRE-PHARMACY

HOLLINS
UNIVERSITY

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL | *Courses and PCAT*

Course requirements for pharmacy schools vary widely. For example, some schools require calculus and others do not. Most programs prefer students with broad, well-rounded backgrounds and value a liberal arts education. A science major is not necessarily required for professional programs; in fact, a major or minor in the arts, humanities, or social sciences may be attractive to some pharmacy schools. However, you must balance the requirements of your major with those of pharmacy school admissions and take a wide variety of science courses. Careful planning is essential to avoid scheduling conflicts.

It is recommended that you investigate the particular requirements of pharmacy schools to which you are interested in applying. These can be found at aacp.org. Regardless of a school's

particular course requirements, students applying to pharmacy school programs must take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT). For the 2019–2020 testing cycle, the standard administration of the PCAT will occur on one or more dates in July, September, October, November, January, and February. The PCAT requires specific knowledge content that you need to obtain from your courses here at Hollins. The content categories are:

- *Biological Processes*
- *Chemical Processes*
- *Critical Reading*
- *Quantitative Reasoning*
- *Writing*

Information about the exam and complete content description can be found at pcatweb.info.

GENERAL COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

to *most* pharmacy schools, and the courses at Hollins that satisfy them

Two semesters of General Chemistry	CHEM 101/102 or 105/214
Two semesters of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 221/222
Two semesters of General Biology	BIOL 220/236
Calculus	MATH 241/242
Intro to Statistics	STAT 140
Human Anatomy	BIOL 260
Two semesters of English Composition	ENG 100/Others

In addition, many schools require the following.

Biochemistry	BIOL/CHEM 351
One semester of Introductory Physics.....	PHYS 151 or 201
Genetics.....	BIOL 314
Immunology.....	BIOL 332
Microbiology.....	BIOL 312
Public Speaking.....	COMM 125
One semester of Micro or Macroeconomics.....	ECON 157/158

It is imperative that you take the PCAT in the summer after your third year if you are planning to enter pharmacy school following graduation from Hollins. However, it is recommended you not take the PCAT before July of the year that you submit your pharmacy school application, so your optimal window is quite short. Information about dates, locations, and fees can be found at pcatweb.info.

APPLYING TO PHARMACY SCHOOL

The PharmCAS application becomes available in June. In addition to transcripts and test scores, you will need letters of recommendation from your professors. You must request these from professors who can honestly comment on your potential to successfully navigate a pharmacy program. The pre-health advisor will coordinate the collection and collation of the letters and their submission. The Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) system releases your application to the

schools you choose, and then those schools send you supplemental applications. Many pharmacy schools require an interview sometime in the fall. An “Academic Update Window” opens from December to February, where you can submit additional information to PharmCAS after your initial submission. Information about PharmCAS, participating colleges, fees, and deadlines can be found at pharmcas.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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