

THE PHARMACEUTICAL PROFESSION

Pharmacists are primarily responsible for monitoring and distributing drug therapy, health promotion, and patient counseling. Pharmacists may also be involved in basic and clinical research, working in collaboration with other researchers, physicians, and pharmacists. They apply scientific and technical knowledge to evaluate drug therapy for each individual patient. Pharmacists use personal relations skills when working with patients and other health professionals.

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

Pharmacy schools vary in their credit requirement for admission to the program, yet most prefer applicants who already hold a bachelor's degree. Typically, any major is acceptable so long as the pre-requisite courses required for the program are completed. The most common undergraduate majors among pre-pharmacy students include biology, chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology, and psychology. In selecting a college major, consider how you will satisfactorily complete the pre-requisite courses for your desired program, in addition to graduation requirements at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES

Although there is no required undergraduate major for entering the field of pharmacy, each institution will have a required list of pre-requisite coursework that must be completed. Some programs accept AP/CLEP/other transfer credits, while other programs do not. To the right is a list of general courses and credits for pharmacy school based on UNMC requirements. Students should contact their desired graduate school directly for specific pre-requisite requirements, transfer equivalencies, or other questions.

Courses	Credits
Chemistry	16
Physics	4
Biological Sciences	12
Mathematics	7
General Education	21

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-Pharmacy students are encouraged to participate in experiences, such as leadership activities, volunteer opportunities, research, and shadowing of professionals, which will help prepare them for graduate school and the pharmacy profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the profession. In particular, shadowing pharmacists will help students learn more about the daily activities of the profession.

At Nebraska Wesleyan, student organizations that may be interesting or useful to students looking into the pharmaceutical field include Pre-Health Club and Psychology Club. As well, consider Beta Beta Beta (Biology Honorary) and Psi Chi (Psychology Honorary).

PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION

There are over 140 accredited pharmacy schools in the United States that offer the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) degree. Schools in Nebraska offering such programs include Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The total number of credit hours required for degree completion may vary from school to school. Some institutions may also offer joint degrees.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION

1. Applications to Creighton, UNMC, and many other pharmacy schools are made through [Pharmacy College Application Service \(PharmCAS\)](#). This standardized application permits a student to apply to multiple schools and colleges with one application and distribution of transcripts. Applicants select the specific schools they would like to apply to and send the application directly through the site. The PharmCAS application includes the applicant's personal statement, course summary, and listing of extracurricular activities. PharmCAS.org has information on other participating schools in the centralized application service.
2. The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT®) was retired on January 10, 2024. Therefore, no PCAT testing dates will be offered during the 2024–2025 admissions cycle or beyond.
3. Note that many schools require letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and interviews for admission. Some schools that accept applications through PharmCAS may also require a supplemental or secondary application.

Regional Schools	Credit Requirement	Avg. GPA	Length of Program	Degree Offered
UNMC	60 hours	3.55	4 years	Pharm. D.
Creighton University	63 hours	3.3	4 years	Pharm. D.
Drake University	64 hours	3.0 min.	4 years	Pharm. D.
University of Iowa	66 hours	3.4	4 years	Pharm. D.
University of Wisconsin - Madison	68 hours	3.6	4 years	Pharm. D.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Explore Health Careers](#)

[American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy \(AACP\)](#)

[American Pharmacists Association \(APhA\)](#)

Current students can use the [Career Assistance Network](#) to connect with NWU alumni in the pharmacy profession.

