



HOW TO

Become a Pharmacist



1. Graduate from high school

While in high school, pay special attention to science courses like biology, chemistry, and physiology. How you perform in these types of classes early on will help you determine whether a career in medicine is right for you.



2. Get a bachelor's degree

You will need to have a Bachelor of Science degree from a four-year institution to apply to pharmacy school. It is required that you complete at least two years of pre-pharmacy coursework during this time, including anatomy, biology, calculus, chemistry, physics, and sociology.



3. Take the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test)

This test was created and designed to be used in the admissions process for pharmacy schools. It also measures both overall academic ability and scientific knowledge.



4. Obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree

These programs typically take four years to complete. While in pharmacy school, you will study subjects like pharmacology and medical ethics in a classroom setting, and work in hospitals and pharmacies under the supervision of licensed professionals



5. Get licensed

It is required to have a license to practice pharmacy in the United States. You will need to pass the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination) to gain licensure, and take the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE) for most states.

Some Facts on Studying Pharmacy



Over 110 colleges and schools of pharmacy in the United States offer first professional degree programs accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education

Chemistry is a common major for those who prepare for pharmacy school because the standard curriculum of chemistry programs typically includes all or most of the courses that will be prerequisite for entrance



Factors such as grade point average, completion of prerequisite courses, pharmacy-related work and volunteer experience, letters of recommendation, TOEFL testing for international students, and so forth are typically involved in Pharm.D. application

About half of all Pharm.D. programs participate in the PharmCAS centralized application system. Candidate applications are submitted online and the same application form can be submitted to multiple schools

