



## Pharmacy School Fact Sheet

### What degree can I earn?

PharmD = Doctor of Pharmacy

For the 2021 entering pharmacy class, there were 13,324 applicants of which 11,520 accepted. Average applications per individual was 2.70. There are 142 PharmD programs, data reported from the 134 programs that utilize PharmCAS.

### What is the nature of this profession?

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use. Pharmacists work in independently owned pharmacies or retail chains, hospitals, research clinics, pharmaceutical companies, and government agencies. Work hours vary depending on place of employment, though many will work evening and weekend shifts. Pharmacists have “provider status” which means they are able to provide immunizations and more comprehensive patient care.

### Where can I find additional information about Pharmacy?

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy [www.aacp.org/resources/students/future](http://www.aacp.org/resources/students/future) (“Like” them on Facebook and Follow them on Twitter @AACPharmacy) or [www.pharmacyforme.org/career-pathways](http://www.pharmacyforme.org/career-pathways)

**YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY MAJOR YOU WOULD LIKE AS LONG AS YOU FULFILL THE PREREQUISITES FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL.**

**The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the PCAT and Pharmacy School:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BIO 121: General Biology II	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BMS 290/391: Human Physiology w/lab	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 220: General Physics I	MTH 201: Calculus I (this varies by school)
PHY 221: General Physics II	

**Other suggested courses (some schools require):** BMS 310, BMS 311, PSY 432, BIO 355 or 375/376, STA 215, COM 201, SOC 101, ECO 210 or 211, other social science classes.

**Some pharmacy schools do not accept AP credit for prerequisite courses.** If they do, your AP credit may be applied differently than it was at GVSU. Due to variations in admission requirements and procedures, it is advisable to research different pharmacy programs. Visit the pharmacy school websites, PharmCAS, or your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.

**A C or better grade is typically required for prerequisite courses.**

### PCAT

You may need to take The Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT), although a number of schools no longer require it. Traditionally, applicants plan to take the exam one year before starting pharmacy school. The PCAT test includes sections on Writing, Biology, Chemistry, Critical Reading, and Quantitative Reasoning. The PCAT is scored from 200-600; you will also receive a percentile ranking.

**The national PCAT average** for applicants accepted to pharmacy school fluctuates minimally from year to year. Recently reported PCAT composite score means: **49<sup>th</sup> percentile** for all applicants; **57<sup>th</sup> percentile** for accepted applicants.

### GPA

To gain entrance to pharmacy school, usually a 2.5 to 3.0 minimum cumulative collegiate GPA is required. All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses. Pharmacy schools look at a variety of GPA calculations in addition to the overall GPA; including the science GPA, non-science GPA, GPA trends, and GPA in specific subjects.

**The national GPA averages** for applicants accepted to pharmacy school fluctuate minimally from year to year. Recently reported for accepted applicants are: Cumulative GPA: **3.32**, Average science GPA: **3.17**. **PharmD schools in Michigan have been consistent with these GPA averages.**

## Besides a strong GPA and PCAT score, pharmacy schools look for the following:

- **Pharmacy-related Clinical Volunteer/Work Experience** and/or other Health Care experience
  - See [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional) and the Healthcare Volunteering & Experience Guide for recommendations
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit [www.gvsu.edu/studentorg](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentorg) to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Pharmacy Association; other clubs of interest
- **Community service** [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- **Research experience** [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Department websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- **Strong letters of recommendation** typically from faculty and a pharmacist
- Your ability to pass a **criminal background check** (CBC). Pharmacy schools will conduct a CBC before allowing admitted students to begin pharmacy school.

The Medical and Health Humanities Certificate, Intercultural Communications Certificate, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

**Keep a journal** of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application you can track service hours on “Laker Link” (<https://gvsu.campuslabs.com/engage>) if you would like. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. Check out the PharmCAS Tracker documents on the Preprofessional website for a template for recording activities.

GVSU has several partnership programs with two of the Michigan PharmD programs, including:

- **Preferred Admission Program** as well as a **Dual Degree Program** with the University of Michigan’s College of Pharmacy.
- **Guaranteed Early Admissions Program** with Ferris State University’s College of Pharmacy.

For more information about these pathway programs visit the Preprofessional website.

## Want more information?

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor.
- Plan to attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU.
- Check out summer programs like the Summer Health Professions Education Program: [www.shpep.org](http://www.shpep.org)
- Plan ahead using the Prepharmacy Cocurricular Map (available on the Preprofessional website)
- Subscribe to the Prepharmacy Google Group to receive helpful information while you are at GVSU. To join follow the instructions below:
  1. Sign into your GVSU student e-mail
  2. Send message to “[prepharmacy+subscribe@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:prepharmacy+subscribe@mail.gvsu.edu)” > leave everything else blank
  3. Look for message in GVSU student e-mail with subject “Join request for prepharmacy”
  4. Open the “Join request email” and click the blue “Join This Group” button
    - i. If adding from a mobile device you must click desktop version in the footer after clicking “Join This Group”
  5. Welcome message will appear confirming you have been added to the group. Be sure to click on Join this Group button after reviewing group information.

Also follow us on social media!  **YouTube** [GVSU Pre-Professional Programs](https://www.youtube.com/GVSUPreProfessionalPrograms)

 | **Instagram** [@gvsupreprofessionaladvising](https://www.instagram.com/gvsupreprofessionaladvising)

To schedule an appointment with a Prepharmacy Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising) and click on “Schedule Appointment”