

Pre-Pharmacy Program at Messiah College (4 yr)

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in Pharmacy. While the academic and experiential requirements *may* vary by institution, most of them have similar requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Pharmacy School, and how Messiah College prepares its students to meet and often exceed these requirements. You will note that at Messiah we have both a 3+ and a four-year Pharmacy **Program**. Our four -year program is described here and is best thought of as an overlay of courses that can be scheduled as part of numerous majors, with the exception of engineering and nursing.

Preparing for a Career in Pharmacy

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm • www.explorehealthcareers.org
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements vary by school • Check the <i>Pharmacy School Admission Requirements</i> (PSAR) (www.aacp.org) • Generally, course work should include biology, chemistry, physics, English, social sciences, and humanities
Application Timeline	Pharmacy school directly after Messiah College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of fall semester of senior year • Apply during summer between junior and senior years or during senior year
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) (www.pcatweb.info) • Approximately half of the pharmacy schools require or recommend the PCAT • Given four times a year, <u>usually</u> in January, June, August and October • Register on-line (www.pcatweb.info) • Length 5 h • 6 sections : Verbal Ability, Quantitative Ability, Biology, Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Writing • Receive scores approximately 6 weeks after test • Scores range from 200 to 600 • <i>Candidate Information Booklet</i> (www.pcatweb.info)
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately half of the pharmacy schools participate in the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) (www.pharmcas.org) • Available ≈ June 1 • Each school selects an application deadline (November, December, January, February, or March) • For pharmacy schools that do not participate in PharmCAS, apply directly to the school • APPLY EARLY!!!

Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall and science GPA (check PSAR for #'s) • PCAT • Letters of evaluation • The type of letter written on behalf of the applicant may vary. For myriad reasons that will be discussed at the time of application, applicants may have a Committee Letter of Recommendation or a Committee Packet of Information sent on their behalf. • Interview • Written communication skills via an essay during the interview process • Health-related experience • Extracurricular activities
Length of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 academic years or 3 calendar years
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (www.aacp.org) • American Pharmacists Association (www.aphanet.org)