

"Where can I Learn to Become a Pharmacist?"

The UT College of Pharmacy offers a curricular program designed to produce skilled, caring, and culturally competent pharmacists who are prepared to optimize medication use, ensure patient safety, and pursue advanced training in clinical specialties and pharmaceutical research.

The University of Tennessee is dedicated to maintaining and advancing its position as a leader in pharmacy education. We continue to improve and nurture our programs in order to offer a variety of academic and clinical experiences that give our graduates a powerful edge in today's competitive health care market.



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question forums and more information

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SOCIETY

Becoming A Pharmacist



Jeffrey Atherton Jr.

CHIPS President
Senior Medical Student

Future Students

Why Should I Become a Pharmacist?

I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE GET WELL

Pharmacists play a key role in helping patients feel better and get well as quickly as possible. Pharmacists can be instrumental in improving the health of patients by choosing the best medicines and helping to avoid side effects.

I LIKE TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH PATIENTS

I ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pharmacists can work in a myriad of professional settings.

I CAN BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR PHARMACISTS

There is an ongoing demand for pharmacy services throughout the U.S. in most sectors of the profession.

I WANT TO BE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM

Pharmacists work with other health care professionals to maximize health outcomes. Numerous studies have proven that the presence of a pharmacist on hospital rounds as a full member of the patient care team has been shown to prevent drug errors and reduce costs.

I CAN HAVE JOB MOBILITY, STABILITY, AND

FLEXIBILITY

Pharmacists are employed in every part of the country.

I AM EXCITED TO BE A PART OF MAJOR INNOVATIONS IN DRUG THERAPY

I WOULD LIKE TO BE A HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBER OF MY COMMUNITY



HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS

High school academics should focus on adequately preparing the student for the rigors of a science-driven undergraduate degree.

High school curriculum should expose students to **physics, chemistry, biology**, and higher-order math such as **pre-calculus** or **calculus**. These courses, along with the normal complement of English, Foreign Language and other Social Studies should provide a solid foundation for the pre-pharmacy work completed in college.

Students should take the ACT and SAT standardized assessments for college admission.

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMICS

All Pharmacy schools have their own prerequisites, but most schools require:

- General Chemistry I & II
- Biology I & II
- Physics I & II
- Organic Chemistry I & II
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Calculus I & II
- Statistics
- English I & II

The prerequisite courses for most Pharmacy schools are extensive and require a degree in either Biology or Chemistry. In addition, the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) must be taken prior to applying. The exam has 6 sections and covers biology, chemistry, verbal skills, and mathematics.



“All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. It is the dose that differentiates a poison from a remedy.”
- Paracelsus



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We all depict a unique story defined by our passions and pursuits. Pharmacy school admission committees search for well-rounded students with personal interests cultivated outside of the school environment. We admonish students to seek out their own personal interests and, if possible, take on a leadership role in that area.

Outside of personal interests, students should consider becoming involved in one or more of the following activities:

- Community Volunteering
- Pharmacy Shadowing
- Medical Missions
- Pre-pharmacy Interest Groups
- Undergraduate Research

