

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: I received college credit from an advanced placement or a CLEP exam, do I still need to retake the same class in college?

A: Credit acquired by taking an AP or CLEP exam can only be applied towards general education credit. All pre-requisite courses specifically listed by a pharmacy school require a letter grade for calculation into overall GPA and science GPA.

Q: What should I do to ensure that I am prepared to take the PCAT exam?

A: The PCAT, like most other comprehensive exams, is difficult to cram for. Make sure you complete all of the courses covered on the exam beforehand: Zoology (Biology), Math through Calculus, Chemistry through Organic Chemistry (especially the first half), and technical writing. Generally students will take the exam after O-Chem I. A few months before you take the exam you can check out a PCAT review from me and take some practice tests to help you know what to expect.

Q: Which classes beyond those that are required would you recommend taking to be prepared for pharmacy school or working in a lab?

A: I would certainly recommend quantitative analysis either way. For pharmacy, I would also recommend Biochemistry or Cell Biology and communication classes. If you plan to go into retail pharmacy, you may wish to take some economic classes as well.

Q: What technical skills might you need beyond what you learn in University classes for Pharmacy School or working in a lab? How would you go about obtaining those skills?

A: In filling out PharmCAS recommendations for students, they ask the evaluator to rank the applicant on oral and written communication, ability to handle stressful situations, maturity, cooperative, and integrity, to name a few. In addition to obtaining good grades, be a good person, too. Dress and conduct yourself like a pharmacist would.

Q: What are some different ways to finance pharmacy school?

A: Pharmacy school is definitely more affordable if you go to a public school. In addition to the tuition being much less, many scholarships and work opportunities are presented. Private schools are much more expensive and fewer scholarships are available; therefore, students typically acquire student loans. Private schools justify the higher cost by graduating students in 3 years rather than 4 years. Pharmacists typically earn around \$100,000 / year.