

Preparing for Pharmacy School at UTC

(<http://www.utc.edu/Academic/HealthCareers/4-Pharmacy.html>)

Pre-Pharmacy is not a degree program. You're not like other students; you need pay no attention to the normal general education requirement of students in UTC degree tracks. You probably don't even have to take EHLS courses (physical ed.) unless you target a pharmacy school that requires them. **Of course everything changes if you decide to stay at UTC to get a degree.** As a pre-pharmacy student you may simply plan on taking those courses that will get you into one of the approximately 84 accredited colleges of pharmacy in the USA. The best source of this information is the pharmacy schools themselves, so check out their web pages. Lots of information can be found at: www.pharmweb.net Some regional schools are:

- The University of Tennessee (<http://pharmacy.utmem.edu/>)
- Mercer University (<http://www.mercer.edu/pharmacy/>)
- Samford University (<http://www.samford.edu/schools/pharmacy.html>)
- Campbell University (<http://www.campbell.edu/pharmacy/>)
- Auburn University (<http://pharmacy.auburn.edu/>)
- The University of Georgia (<http://www.rx.uga.edu/main/home/httpd/html/index.html>)

Each of these schools take in “a class” of around 120 students each Fall. After four years there you receive the Pharm.D degree. Excellent preparation for admission to a regional **private** pharmacy programs can be obtained in about two years of study here at UTC, making the total time demand six years if you plan well. It is best to target the program you are most interested in by meeting their admission requirements; e.g. Mercer currently requires:

<u>Course</u>	<u>hours</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>hours</u>
Biology 121	4	Math 136 or 151 & 152	3 - 4
Biology 122	4	English 121 & 122	6
Chemistry 121 & 123 (lab) 3 + 1 =	4	Humanities (2 courses)	6
Chemistry 122 & 124 (lab) 3 + 1 =	4	Social Sciences (2 courses)	6
Chemistry 351 & 353 (lab) 3 + 1 =	4	Economics (101 Or 102)	3
Chemistry 352 & 354 (lab) 3 + 1 =	4	Speech (Thsp 109)	3
Physics 103 & 183 (lab) 3 + 1 =	4	Electives	4
		Total hours =	60 or 61

All pharmacy schools have slightly different requirements. For admission to The University of Tennessee you can drop Economics from the above courses that Mercer requires but you need to complete the following additional courses:

Anatomy 191	4	Physiology 208 & 209	4
Math 210 (statistics)	3	Microbiology 311	4
Immunology 412	3	Cell Biology 428	4
Biochemistry 466	3	Electives	8

Completing required course work in a timely manner only happens if you start by taking Chemistry and Biology 121 in your first term or take course work during the summer terms. Again, planning well is important! Each school has its own requirements so it is important to plan your curriculum according to where you wish to go to pharmacy school. Again, a wealth of information can be located by going to:

www.pharmweb.net

When to apply to pharmacy school depends on your choice of programs. Mercer and Campbell have rolling admissions so students should apply as early as the end of their first year in college. Grades are very important, a 3.2 or better is probably needed. You also need to take the Pharmacy College Admission Test. Applications may be obtained by calling The Psychological Corporation at 1-800-622-3231. At UTC information about this and other examinations can be obtained from our testing center, 258B Hooper Hall, Ph.: 425-4288. The book: How to Prepare for the Pharmacy College Admission Test, can be obtained by calling Barron's at: 1-800-645-3476. You will also need some recommendations from faculty members so make a point of trying to get to know some Professors or at least making sure they know you.

Finally, the preparation you get on your way to applying for pharmacy school is excellent. Should you not be accepted the first time you apply, get some feedback, and plan on reapplying. You might also adjust your course work at this point so that you can get a degree from UTC. At any rate, planning to go to pharmacy school requires you to **develop a time-table for when you need to complete a given course** and a **plan for what you should do if your first goal, going to pharmacy school, is delayed**. By looking ahead several terms you can motivate yourself and make sure you are able to take advantage of opportunities when they occur.