

Preparing for Pharmacy School at UT Chattanooga

(www.utc.edu/~premeds/)

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 85 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>)
 East Tennessee State University (<http://www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/>)

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 1110/1110L	4	Math 1910 & 1911	4
Biology 1120/1120L	4	English 1010 & 1020	6
Chemistry 1110/1110L	4	Humanities (2 courses)	6
Chemistry 1120/1120L	4	Social Sciences (2 courses)	6
Chemistry 3010/3010L	4	Economics (1010 or 1020)	3
Chemistry 3020/3020L	4	Speech (Thsp 1090)	3
Physics 1030/1030L	4	Electives	4
		Total hours = 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 1910/1910L	4	Physiology 2080/2080L	4
Math 2100 (statistics)	3	Microbiology 3110/3110L	4
Immunology 4120	3	Cell Biology 4280/4280L	4
Biochemistry 4510	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 3.3 or better is probably needed. You also need to take the Pharmacy College Admission Test, PCAT. Applications may be obtained by calling The Psychological Corporation at 1-800-622-3231, or online at: www.pcatweb.info
 At UTC information about this and other examinations can be obtained from our testing center, Ph.: 425-4288, located in Siskin trailer B. The book: How to Prepare for the PCAT, can be obtained by contacting Barrons: 1-800-645-3476, <http://barronseduc.com/test-preparation-miscellaneous-test-prep.html>. You will also need some recommendations from faculty members so make a point of getting 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 feed-back, 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.

* Taking math 1830 will meet the calculus requirement for most pharmacy schools but does not meet the requirements for chemistry and most technical areas.