



Pre-Pharmacy prep at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

What is Pre-Pharmacy?

Most pre-pharmacy students are science majors (biology or chemistry), but a pre-pharmacy student can major in almost any discipline provided the required science courses are completed when applying to schools of pharmacy. Pharmacy school expects non-science majors to perform very well in science courses.

What Is the Pre-Pharmacy curriculum?

Course requirements vary considerably among the numerous pharmacy graduate programs. Prerequisites for entry into pharmacy programs typically include; 8 credits of biology (BIOL 101, 102, at HACC), 16 credits of chemistry (CHEM 101, 102, 203, 204, at HACC), 8 credits of physics (PHYS 201, 202 or 211, 212, at HACC as determined by the transfer institution), and mathematics through calculus (MATH 121, at HACC). Students should refer to HACC transfer check sheets, if available, and work with their HACC advisor in preparation for transfer to the Bachelor Degree granting institution or Pharmacy school application. Additionally, students are expected to complete all science and math requirements with pre-pharmacy advising.

What are the characteristics of a successful Pre-Pharmacy student?

There are approximately 127 accredited schools of pharmacy in the United States, approximately 7 in Pennsylvania. All are highly competitive, have strict course prerequisites, and require students to plan a strategy early in their college career. To be competitive when applying to pharmacy schools, students should accumulate a grade point average of at **least** 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) for their course work and perform above average on the Pharmacy College Admission Test, (PCAT). A limited number of Pharmacy schools accept a limited number of exceptional students after 60 credits of pre-pharmacy requirements. The majority of first year students are admitted with 3 or 4 years of college. It is also competitive that students participate in an internship experience in a pharmacy setting in order to become acquainted with the field prior to making formal application to selected professional programs. All interested students should visit the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy website, www.aacp.org, for further information. Students will be advantaged by transferring from HACC to a Bachelor Degree granting school with a pre-pharmacy option where students are advised by pre-pharmacy advisors in prerequisite courses, PCAT preparation, application procedures and current trends in admission. It would be a further advantage to transfer to a Bachelor Degree granting school that has an affiliation with a school(s) of pharmacy.