

Course Requirements

LLU Pharmacy Admission Requirements
 (www.llu.edu/llu/sps/admissions.html)

Students are strongly advised to select a baccalaureate degree and work toward that degree while completing the pharmacy admission requirements listed below. Completing a bachelor's degree will increase a student's career options as well as increasing their chances of admission into pharmacy. The choice of degree is up to the student, but the more the requirements of the degree overlap with the pre-pharmacy requirements, the easier scheduling will be.

General biology/lab	BIOL 111, 112, 113	5,5,5
Anatomy	BIOL 101	5
Microbiology	BIOL 366 (or MICR 134)	5
General chemistry/lab	CHEM 111, 112, 113	5,5,5
Organic chemistry/lab	CHEM 371, 372, 373	4,4,4
Biochemistry	CHEM 481	4
General physics/lab	PHYS 111, 112, 113	4,4,4
Calculus	MATH 131, 132	4,4
Communication	COMM 105 (or 226)	3
General Psychology	PSYC 121	4
Economics	ECON 261 (or 265)	4

Additional highly recommended courses:

Human Physiology	BIOL 102	5
Cell and Molecular Biology	BIOL 320	4
Histology	BIOL 426	5
Immunology	BIOL 469	4

In rare circumstances students are considered for admission without having completed a bachelor's degree. In addition to the above prerequisites, students not completing a bachelor's degree must complete the courses listed in the areas below.

(For applicants completing a bachelor's degree, the general education requirements for the degree cover the equivalent of these requirements.)

English Composition 8 quarter hours
 (ENGL 101-102 composition sequence from English department only; remedial English and ESL courses not acceptable)

Humanities and Fine Arts 18 quarter hours
 Recommended areas include: literature, philosophy, history, ethics, foreign language, art history, music history (Studio or performance courses in art and music are not acceptable.)

Social and Behavioral Sciences 9 quarter hours
 Recommended areas include: cultural diversity, anthropology, psychology, psychobiology, economics, political science, geography, sociology (These 9 hours are in addition to the General Psychology and Economics prerequisites listed above)

AP credit is accepted for the first quarter of any prerequisite sequence.

CLEP credit is not accepted to fulfill any prerequisite courses.

Distance and online courses are accepted to fulfill the following prerequisite courses only: Calculus, Economics, and Psychology.

LLU strongly advises prospective students to obtain significant pharmacy work experience (Pharmacy Technician, Pharmacy Clerk, Pharmacy volunteer). The experience should be long enough to allow the supervising pharmacist to write a meaningful letter of recommendation.

Please note: The final word on a suitable prerequisite program belongs to the accepting institution. Students are advised to contact LLU early to double check the adequacy of pre-pharmacy school plans.

Occupational Information

General Areas of Service

Pharmacists dispense and provide advice regarding the use of prescription medications. Specialized training regarding the actions, side-effects, and costs of pharmaceuticals makes the pharmacist an important member of the overall health-care team, working closely with physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.

The educating role of pharmacists is critical as they are often the last to give professional medical advice before the patient begins treatment. In addition, the pharmacist is often the most accessible of the health-care team and therefore is often the first to whom a patient will turn with medical questions.

Pharmacists serve in a wide variety of contexts including community pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, the pharmaceutical industry, and ranging to the fields of public health, insurance, and law.

Students considering pharmacy should have a desire to help others. In this context they will need to develop conscientious attention to detail and strong scientific and communication skills.

Professional Training

To obtain a license to practice pharmacy, one must complete a four-year post-college program culminating in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree and pass the California State Board Examination in Pharmacy (for California) and/or the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (all other states).

Prior to entering PharmD studies, the student must complete a pre-pharmacy (college-level) program of specified prerequisite courses (see "Admission Requirements" below). Completion of a baccalaureate degree in chemistry, biology, physics, a related scientific field, or business is preferred.

Job Outlook

Employment in pharmacy is expected to grow at a faster rate compared to the average rate of job growth in all fields through 2018. Job prospects are expected to be excellent during this time. Reasons for this strong growth include an increase in the average age of the population, and an increasing level of pharmacist involvement in patient care.

Earnings

In 2008, the median annual pharmacist's wage was \$106,410. 50% of pharmacists earned between \$92,670 and \$121,310. The lowest 10% earned less than \$77,390 and the highest 10% earned more than \$131,440.

For More Information

Sources

School of Pharmacy, Loma Linda University
(www.llu.edu/llu/sps/index.html)

Occupational Outlook Handbook
(www.bls.gov/oco/ocos079.htm)

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
(www.aacp.org)

American Pharmacists Association (www.aphanet.org)

PUC contact:
Richard E. Clark, Pre-pharmacy advisor
(rclark@puc.edu, 707-965-7603)

LLU contact: School of Pharmacy Admissions
admissions.sp@llu.edu , 909-558-1300 or 800- 422-4558)