

## Pre-pharmacy information

Pharmacy programs vary by school and you should investigate the schools you are interested in to verify that you are satisfying the requirements that are particular to that school. There are many similarities and the program below is based on the requirements for University of Georgia ([www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu)) and University of South Carolina ([www.pharm.sc.edu](http://www.pharm.sc.edu)) programs.

Some students may choose to transfer into a pharmacy program once they have completed the pre-requisite courses (usually 2 years of study).

Other students may wish to finish a bachelor's degree before entering pharmacy school. You should complete your degree in a major that interests you, science-related or not. A science major is typical since most pre-requisite courses are in science and math. A majority of the science prerequisites are chemistry courses, thus making a chemistry major a choice that will "streamline" your studies. A student with an interest in molecules that have a drug effect (pharmacy) will often find the study of molecules (chemistry) interesting in general—especially once they get beyond the introductory courses. A degree is not required, but it is specifically suggested that upper level coursework and practical experience (such as "shadowing" experience or research experience) often play an important role during the interview phase and the stronger candidates are often those who have already completed a bachelors degree. Admission is extremely competitive. UGA accepted 127 students out of a pool of 1000 applicants in a recent year. In 2007, USC accepted 110 student to the USC Columbia campus and 80 students to the MUSC Charleston campus.

The Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) consists of chemistry, biology, math, reading, and writing sections. Detailed information on this test can be found at [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info)

### *UGA as an example*

Statistics of the entering class vary each year. The 2006 UGA entering class had an average PCAT of 93 (range of 72-99) with an average GPA of 3.7 (range of 3.0 to 4.0). The 2007 UGA entering class was similar with a 3.67 average GPA (range of 3.08 to 4.00) and average PCAT of 90 (range of 73 to 99). The GPA, PCAT, and interview were weighted equally (maximum 100 points per category) in making admission decisions, whereby a good performance in one area will forgive a weaker performance in another area. Therefore the formula  $(\text{GPA} \times 25) + (\text{PCAT score}) + (\text{interview score}) = \text{total score}$ . The lowest total score accepted in 2003 was 249.2 total points. Typically a score of 140 out of 200 (for the GPA and PCAT) is necessary to grant an interview, but this score varies as interviews are granted to a certain number of students rather than a certain minimum score.

Recommended Pre-pharmacy Curriculum based on UGA and USC

(**courses in bold** represent additional requirements of one school vs. the other, *courses in italics* represent specific requirements for one school that are acceptable options at the other)

**University of Georgia**

Area A

ENGL 1101 (3)

ENGL 1102 (3)

MATH 1113 (3)

Area B- institutional options

Area C

COMS1020 (3)

HUMN 2001 (4)

Area D

CHEM1211 (4)

CHEM1212 (4)

MATH2011 (4)

Area E

*HIST 2111 or 2112 (3)*

*POLS 1101 (3)*

ECON 2105 or 2106

*One additional approved social science course: ex. Anthropology, psychology sociology, etc.*

Area F

CHEM 3411 (4)

CHEM 3412 (4)

BIOL 1107 (4)

BIOL 1108 (4)

MATH 2210

Other

**Wellness course (1)**

**University of South Carolina**

ENGL 1101 (3)

ENGL 1102 (3)

COMS 1020 (3)

ECON 2105 or 2106 preferred

*PSYC 1101, 1103, or 2150*

MATH 1113 (3)

MATH 2011 (4)

MATH 2210 (3)

CHEM 1211 (4)

CHEM 1212 (4)

CHEM 3411 (4)

CHEM 3412 (4)

**PHYS 1111 (4)- lecture is min.**

**PHYS 1112 (4)- lecture is min.**

BIOL 1107 (4)

BIOL 1108 (4)

**BIOL 2111 (4)- lecture is min.**

**BIOL 2112 (4)- lecture is min.**

*Liberal Arts Electives- 9 hours total such as humanities, sociology, history, etc.*

Knowledge of profession strongly recommended via employment, research, shadowing etc. since interview will focus on this