

Pre-Pharmacy at Mercer University

The pre-pharmacy program at Mercer University is designed to aid students in completing the requirements for admission to a pharmacy school. Many pre-pharmacy students at Mercer participate in the Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program, which is described below; this program is specifically designed to prepare students for the pharmacy program at Mercer University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (<http://www.mercer.edu/pharmacy/>), which is located on Mercer's Atlanta campus. However, Mercer students who are not in the Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program may still apply to Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) through the normal application process. Students interested in this option should complete the prerequisite courses for admission to the COPHS and look into the COPHS admission requirements and procedures.

Mercer students may also decide to apply to pharmacy schools other than Mercer's COPHS. Students who are considering applying to pharmacy schools other than Mercer's COPHS should note that not all pharmacy schools share the same admission requirements; thus, these students may need to take courses in addition to or instead of those listed below. Pre-pharmacy students are advised to verify the admission requirements at each pharmacy school to which they might apply.

Pre-pharmacy students should note that an undergraduate degree is not required for admission to most pharmacy schools, though many applicants accepted to pharmacy schools have bachelor's degrees. The pre-pharmacy curriculum is not an academic major, so any pre-pharmacy student who plans to complete a bachelor's degree on Mercer's Macon campus must choose an academic major and complete the requirements for that major, in addition to the courses required for admission to pharmacy schools.

Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program

The Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program (GAPDP) is designed for students admitted to or enrolled at Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) in Macon. In order to participate in the GAPDP, a student must complete ALL of his/her pre-pharmacy coursework at Mercer's CLA; students who take college courses at institutions other than Mercer after they graduate from high school are no longer eligible for the GAPDP. In order to meet the minimum requirements for admission to the COPHS Pharm.D. program, a GAPDP student must satisfy all pre-pharmacy requirements, complete all of the general education requirements for the CLA (with the exception of the senior capstone course), and complete 90 semester hours in-residence at Mercer's CLA by the end of the spring semester of his/her third year at Mercer (see checklist attached).

Note that, with the approval of the COPHS Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, dual enrollment credit (i.e., college courses taken by a student while s/he is still in high school) credit may be accepted to fulfill the pre-pharmacy requirements, though no class in which a student earned a grade below a "C" will transfer to Mercer. Similarly, AP, IB, and CLEP credits may be used to fulfill pre-pharmacy requirements. However, dual enrollment, AP, IB, and CLEP credits do not count toward the 90 semester hours required in residence. Additionally, physical education and military science courses cannot be used to satisfy the 90-hour requirement.

Students interested in and eligible for the Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program must complete the "GAPDP Request for Participation" form (at the end of this document) and submit it to the pre-professional advisor (Dr. Carol Bokros, Academic and Advising Services, Penfield Hall, Macon campus) by the end of October of their first semester at Mercer.

After completing 30 semester hours and before completing 60 semester hours, a GAPDP student must declare a major in the College of Liberal Arts. A GAPDP student may choose to pursue any major offered by the CLA. GAPDP students are expected to make progress towards their declared majors, including taking 300-level courses in their selected majors.

A GAPDP student must maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, as well as a 3.0 GPA in all math and science courses for the pre-pharmacy core and the student's major. Grades of "C" or above must be earned in all pre-pharmacy courses. Students may not elect to be graded on an "S/U" basis in those math and science courses required for the GAPDP. If a student repeats a course, both grades earned in the course will be used in calculating the student's overall and math/science GPAs when determining the student's eligibility for the GAPDP. The COPHS Office of Student Affairs and Admissions will review the overall and math/science GPAs of all GAPDP students after their second year as undergraduates (August of year 2) and after both the fall and spring semesters of their third year; if a student's overall GPA or math/science GPA is below a 3.0 at any of these times, the student will no longer be eligible to participate in the GAPDP.

Since experience in a pharmacy setting is essential to a GAPDP student's understanding of the education and career s/he is pursuing, each GAPDP student must provide documentation of a minimum of 500 hours of such experience when completing the Pharmacy College Application Service's online application. This means that a student must

complete these hours before August 1 of the summer following her/his second year of undergraduate study. This experience may be paid or unpaid and can take place in one setting or in multiple settings. These experiential hours must be documented using the GAPDP "Pharmacy Experience Certification" form, available from the COPHS Student Affairs and Admissions Office and at the following website: <http://www2.mercer.edu/AAS/Pre-professional+Information/Pre-Pharmacy.htm>.

Starting in the fall of his/her first year at Mercer, a GAPDP student must participate in the academic advising and career seminar programs provided jointly by the pre-pharmacy advisor at the CLA and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions at the COPHS. Early each fall, the associate dean comes to the Macon campus to outline the requirements of the GAPDP for first-year students. In the spring semester of their second year, GAPDP students may travel to the COPHS, located on Mercer's Atlanta campus, to tour the facilities and obtain additional advising.

Before August 1 of the summer between their second and third years, GAPDP students are required to apply to the COPHS through the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS, www.pharmacas.org). As part of the PharmCAS online application process, each student will be required to have two letters of reference submitted on his/her behalf, one of which must be from a pharmacist. GAPDP students will need to obtain a minimum score on the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) prior to completing their third year of undergraduate study and must submit their scores to PharmCAS. Each student will also have to submit a supplemental application to the COPHS, along with a recent photograph of him/herself. Final acceptance into the pharmacy program is contingent upon a successful interview with the program's faculty during a GAPDP student's third year of undergraduate study.

Once a GAPDP student is accepted to the COPHS and has successfully completed 32 hours of study at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, that student will be eligible to receive the Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree from Mercer's College of Liberal Arts. To receive this degree, GAPDP students must apply for graduation from the University Registrar during the fall semester of his/ her first year of pharmacy school. The application for May graduation is available on the University website (<http://www2.mercer.edu/Registrar/default.htm>); students should complete the "Macon and Centers Graduation Application". The deadline to apply for May 2010 graduation is November 6, 2009.

Any student who is pursuing a pre-pharmacy curriculum at Mercer should sign up for Healthvoc-L, the e-mail list for students interested in health-related vocations. Students may subscribe to this service by sending an e-mail to mailserv@mercer.edu. The body of the message should contain the following text:

**subscribe healthvoc-L
end**

Most announcements related to advising, academic and career programs, and seminars will be sent only to this list. Note that students are required to use their Mercer University e-mail addresses for all electronic correspondence regarding their GAPDP statuses and questions.

The Pre-Pharmacy Program

Students must take the following courses, plus additional elective courses, to reach the total of at least 90 semester hours in residence and to meet the minimum requirements for admission to the Pharm.D. program at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences:

Biology: BIO 211 and 212: Introduction to Biology I and II
BIO/CHM 465: Biochemistry I
Chemistry: CHM 111 and 112: General Chemistry I and II
CHM 221 and 222: Organic Chemistry I and II
Communication: COM 210: Public Speaking
Economics: ECN 150 or 151: Principles of Microeconomics or Principles of Macroeconomics
Mathematics: MAT 126: Elementary Statistical Methods
MAT 191: Calculus I
Physics: PHY 141/121L or 161/121L: Introductory Physics I or General Physics I

In addition, pre-pharmacy students must complete all College of Liberal Arts general education requirements, excluding the senior capstone course, and should make progress in their declared majors, including taking 300-level courses in their majors.

Note that the classes listed above fulfill the requirements for admission to Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Other pharmacy schools may have different requirements. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the admission requirements of the particular pharmacy schools in which they are interested.

Pre-Pharmacy Advising

Pre-pharmacy students are advised to remain in contact with the university's pre-professional advisor, as well as with the Student Affairs and Admissions Office in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. When selecting courses to take within his/her declared major, a student should consult with an advisor in the department of his/her major. Each individual student is ultimately responsible for knowing and meeting the requirements of the Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program.

Sample Three-Year Schedule for Pre-Pharmacy Students

The schedules below are relevant for both GAPDP students and those Mercer students who plan on applying to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) via the normal admission process after they have attended Mercer's College of Liberal Arts for three years.

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Schedule for Calculus-Ready (MAT 191) Students	CHM 111	CHM 112	CHM 221	CHM 222	BIO/CHM 465	ELEC
	UNV 101	BIO 211	BIO 212	ELEC	PHY 141 (or 161) & 121L	ELEC
	FYS 101	FYS 102	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC
	MAT 191	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC
Schedule for Precalculus-Ready (MAT 133) Students	CHM 111/CHM 099	CHM 112	CHM 221	CHM 222	BIO/CHM 465	ELEC
	UNV 101	BIO 211	BIO 212	ELEC	PHY 141 (or 161) & 121L	ELEC
	FYS 101	FYS 102	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC
	MAT 133	MAT 191	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC	ELEC

Note: "ELEC" indicates the opportunity for a student to register for COM 210, MAT 126, an economics course, one of the required general education courses, and/or a course from his/her selected major. Some courses that are required for the pre-pharmacy program will also fulfill general education requirements (for example, either ECN 150 or ECN 151 may be counted as one of the social science electives needed to fulfill Mercer's general education requirements). In some cases, the requirements for a student's major may supersede pre-pharmacy requirements (for example, a chemistry major must take PHY 161 instead of PHY 141). GAPDP students are expected to make progress toward completing their declared majors, including taking 300-level courses in their majors. GAPDP students must complete 90 semester hours in residence at Mercer's CLA by the end of the spring semester of their third year at Mercer.

Checklist for Pre-Pharmacy Students

To be eligible for admission to Mercer University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a student must complete the following courses (or their equivalents, if the student has dual-enrollment and/or AP or IB credits) and earn at least 90 semester hours of credit in residence at Mercer. Courses offered by the College of Liberal Arts that satisfy the pre-pharmacy requirements are listed below.

Credits earned	
	Economics (3 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> ECN 150: Principles of Microeconomics <i>or</i> ECN 151: Principles of Macroeconomics*
	Behavioral Sciences, Social Sciences, and Cultural Studies (6 semester hours) (see the College of Liberal Arts General Education Requirements for a list of classes that fulfill these requirements) <input type="checkbox"/> Elective _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective _____
	Biology (13 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 211: Introduction to Biology I <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 212: Introduction to Biology II <input type="checkbox"/> BIO/CHM 465: Biochemistry I
	Chemistry (16 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> CHM 111: General Chemistry I <input type="checkbox"/> CHM 112: General Chemistry II <input type="checkbox"/> CHM 221: Organic Chemistry I <input type="checkbox"/> CHM 222: Organic Chemistry II
	First-Year Seminar (9 semester hours)* <input type="checkbox"/> FYS 101: Composing the Self and UNV 101: The First-Year Student Experience <i>or</i> FYS-X 101 <input type="checkbox"/> FYS 102 <i>or</i> FYS 102X: Engaging the World
	Foreign Language Competency <input type="checkbox"/> FRE, GER, GRK, LAT, or SPN 111 <input type="checkbox"/> FRE, GER, GRK, LAT, or SPN 112 <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Earn an acceptable score on the appropriate foreign language exam to place into FRE, GER, GRK, LAT, or SPN 251 or above, or provide evidence of comparable competency in a language that is not taught at Mercer
	Humanities and Fine Arts (18 semester hours) (see the College of Liberal Arts General Education Requirements for a list of classes that fulfill these requirements) <input type="checkbox"/> CHR 101: Old Testament <i>or</i> CHR 150: New Testament <input type="checkbox"/> HIS 111: The Making of the West <i>or</i> HIS 112: The West and the Modern World <input type="checkbox"/> A literature course <input type="checkbox"/> A philosophy course <input type="checkbox"/> A fine arts course <input type="checkbox"/> Elective _____
	Mathematics (7 semester hours)* <input type="checkbox"/> MAT 126: Elementary Statistical Methods <input type="checkbox"/> MAT 191: Calculus I
	Physics (4 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> PHY 141/121L: Introductory Physics I: Mechanics and Heat (with lab) <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> PHY 161/121L: General Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics (with lab)
	Scientific Inquiry (3 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> SCI 105: Scientific Inquiry
	Speech (3 semester hours) <input type="checkbox"/> COM 210: Public Speaking
	Additional Courses to Meet the Minimum of 90 Credits, Including Upper-Level Courses in a Selected Major <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Total Credits (must equal at least 90)

Note: GAPDP students who use dual enrollment and/or AP credits to satisfy some of the pre-pharmacy and/or general education requirements must take additional courses in order to complete 90 credit hours in residence at Mercer's College of Liberal Arts. Physical education and military science courses cannot be used to satisfy the requirement for 90 hours in residence.

* Those courses with an asterisk next to them meet both a pre-pharmacy requirement and a general education requirement. Note that any one of the laboratory science courses required of pre-pharmacy students will meet the general education requirement for four semester hours of a laboratory science.

**Request for Participation in the Guaranteed Admission Plus Degree Program
for the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
PHARMACY**

First Name:

Last Name:

Student Number:

Contact Information

Permanent Home Address:

Permanent Phone Number:

Local Address:

Local Phone Number:

E-mail Address*:

*Please note that your Mercer e-mail address will be used for all official announcements.

Pharmacy Related Experiences:

Briefly describe why you are interested in a pharmacy career:

Signature: _____ Date: _____