

PHARMACY SCHOOL GENERAL TIMELINE



This is a general timeline for traditional pre-pharmacy students who plan to matriculate into pharmacy school after graduating from a four-year university. It is to be used for general guidance and should not be used as an ultimate guide. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic counselors to map out a strategic academic blueprint.

YEAR 1

- Talk to your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to strategically plan out your college career.
- Look into volunteer, research and/or intern opportunities in the field of pharmacy. Pharmacy schools recommend or require applicants to have experience working with patients in a pharmacy setting.
- Become a part your schools pre-pharmacy club and/or any other campus organizations. Try joining a club that will help hone your interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Make sure to research into pharmacy schools to learn about their specific requirements.
- It will be important to develop relationships with your professors because you will need them to write you letters of recommendations for pharmacy school.
- Make sure you are keeping up with pre-pharmacy and school-related courses.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 1

- Take summer courses if needed or for enrichment. Talk to your pre-health advisor to determine the best way to take advantage of your summer. As a pre-pharmacy student, you should use your summers productively to build up your resume.
- Try obtaining experience working with patients in a pharmacy setting.

YEAR 2

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to make sure you are on track to get into pharmacy school.
- If you have not done so already, obtain a volunteer, research, intern, or work position in a pharmacy setting. Talk to your counselors and advisors to see what the best opportunities available are for you.
- Continue to develop relationships with your college's faculty. Remember that you will need letters of recommendation from people who can comment on your academic abilities.
- Continue to partake in campus organizations such as the pre-pharmacy club.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-pharmacy and school-specific courses. Remember your GPA is one of the most important, if not most important, factor in your pharmacy school admissions.
- Look into the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). Not all schools require PCAT.
- Consider when you want to enroll in pharmacy school. If you want to enroll soon after you graduate college, you need to start applying after your third year. If you want to take a year off (called a gap year), you can apply after your senior year.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 2

- By now you should have obtained a position in a pharmacy setting. Continue working, interning, or volunteering at your current position. If there are promotions at your current position or if you find even more meaningful positions, apply to those. You want to make your pharmacy school resume as strong as possible.
- Consider taking summer courses if needed and/or for enrichment. Make sure to take advantage of every summer.
- If you want to apply for pharmacy school the summer after your third year, consider taking the PCAT (if needed and if ready) this particular summer. If not, decide when you want to take it.

YEAR 3

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to make sure you are on track to get into pharmacy school. You should have determined by now whether you want to apply to pharmacy school after your third year or fourth year of college.
- Continue to gain experience working with patients in a pharmacy setting. If possible, try gaining both clinical and research experience, and it is best if your role is becoming increasingly meaningful.
- If possible, try to obtain leadership positions. Consider running for a leadership position of a campus organization or being part of your school's student body association.
- Think about which professors and/or professionals you want to ask for letters of recommendation. It is crucial that you consider this way before they are due. If you want to apply to pharmacy school in the summer after third year, it is best to ask professors for recommendations during your third year.
- Make a list of all the pharmacy schools you are considering and make sure you have a good grasp on the specific requirements of the respective schools.
- If you want to apply the summer after your third year, you should take the PCAT (if needed) sometime during this year if you have not done so already.
- Make sure to register and adequately prepare for the PCAT. Consider taking a PCAT preparation course.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-pharmacy and school-specific courses.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 3

- Continue your meaningful participation in a pharmacy setting.
- If planning to enroll in pharmacy school after your senior year, make sure to apply for pharmacy school during this time.
- If you have not done so, consider taking the PCAT (if needed) this summer.
- Make sure you are keeping up with your pre-pharmacy and school-specific courses.

YEAR 4

- Continue meeting with your counselor or advisor to make sure you are doing everything you need to get into pharmacy school.
- If you applied for pharmacy school already, start practicing for your interviews. Schools usually start interviewing candidates in August and September.
- If you received acceptances, research the different schools to see which one fits you best.
- If you are applying for pharmacy school after the spring of your senior year, make sure that you take the PCAT (if needed) and start preparing your application materials. Make sure to ask for your letters of recommendations as early as possible. If there are any questions, consult your counselor or advisor.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-pharmacy and school-specific courses. Complete all your requirements and declare for graduation.

SUMMER AFTER GRADUATION

- If you are enrolling in pharmacy school in the fall, prepare for pharmacy school by purchasing books, making living arrangements, talking with current students, etc.
- If applying during this time, make sure to collect all your application materials and apply. You want to apply as early as possible.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities if possible.
- Talk to your counselor and/or advisor to make sure you have done everything you possible could do to succeed.