

Health Professions: Pre-Pharmacy

For students entering Summer or Fall 2009

VT Advisors:

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Additional Advisors:

Dr. Gary Long (Chemistry) - 230 Davidson Hall 231-7575 long@vt.edu

Dr. Carla Slebodnick (Chemistry) - 1981 Kraft Drive Room 2028 231-3136 slebod@vt.edu

Majors:

Any major acceptable as long as certain specific admission requirements are met. Biology, food science, and HNFЕ majors are OK as long as student takes appropriate sciences. Students must have prerequisites met but do not technically have to have a bachelor's degree, although most do.

Common Course Requirements (see additional information for specific school requirements):

General Biology 1005/1006 plus labs

General Chemistry 1035/1036 plus labs

Physics plus lab (1 or 2 semesters depending on school)

Organic Chemistry 2535/2536 plus labs

Microbiology and lab BIOL 2604 + 2614

English 1105/1106

Math 1015/1016 - Calculus

Comm 2004 (Public Speaking)

Ethics/Logic (i.e. Phil, Rel)

Required by several schools:

Anatomy & Physiology BMSP 2135&2136

Biochemistry

Statistics

Required by some schools:

Economics

Other recommended courses:

Analytical Chemistry plus lab

Drug Chemistry 4554 (recommended by Chem. Dept)

NOTE **Most pharmacy schools do not accept AP or IB credit.** At this point dual enrollment credit is generally accepted but the student should check with the schools they are applying to for specific information.

Student Organization:

Pre-Pharmacy Club at Virginia Tech Meets first Tuesday of each month.

Contact Dr. Jack Evans (BIOL) or Matt Millner mrm1206@vt.edu.

(Club president)

Resources for Students:

Web Site: <http://www.aacp.org>

(American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP))

Web Site: <http://www.pharmac.org/schools.html>

Information Sessions:

Usually in October, the 4 VA schools visit

Admissions Test:

PCAT. Costs \$150. General spring Junior year.

70% is acceptable range but depends on school.

Schools will see all scores but will take the highest score.

GPA:

Minimum at some schools is 2.8.

3.4 or better; VCU; Hampton University; Shenandoah, and University of Appalachia. The schools usually concentrate on the junior or senior years. However, a high GPA and no experience means probably not getting in.

Application:

PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service) online application process

<http://www.pharmcas.org/>

Very competitive! Some schools will get 5000 applications for 100 positions.

Interview: Yes. The four VA Pharmacy schools interview in October when they come for an all day recruitment/information day. Applicant needs to demonstrate that they have a good understanding of pharmacy as well as knowing why they want to become a pharmacist. Schools often interview twice as many students as they have space for. Students should understand issues relating to ethics and other healthcare issues.

Added Information:

- There are 4 schools in the state: Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia campus), Hampton University, University of Appalachia, and Shenandoah. Pharmacy currently is a high demand occupation with opportunities in retail, hospitals, long-term care, and pharmaceutical companies.
- Median annual of wage-and-salary pharmacists in May 2006 were \$94,520.
- Most pharmacy programs are now doctoral programs (PharmD) instead of masters.
- Students can also earn another degree while working on pharmacy degree; common degrees are MBA and PhD. This adds approximately one year to their schooling.
- Pharmacy school can cost ~ \$100,000
- Job outlook is excellent; is expected to grow by 22% in the next 8 years.
- Students **MUST** get experience. Suggested ways to gain experience: work at a pharmacy as a pharmacy tech. Some places may pay for certification and training. Volunteer time at a free clinic or retirement home.

	Estimated incoming class size	GPA	PCAT	NOTES
Hampton	64	2.75 minimum to apply	Required. Scores not specified.	Students can apply directly from high school.
Shenandoah	90; expected to interview 200	3.5 average of accepted 2.8 minimum to apply 2.8 minimum in required courses	Minimum score considered: 60 th percentile; 45% minimum individual category PCAT score	May not accept AP credit for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
University of Appalachia	65; expected to interview 300+	3.36 average of accepted. 2.5 minimum to apply 2.5 minimum in required courses	50: Minimum composite PCAT scaled score considered	
VCU	130; expected to interview 250	3.4. No minimum specified	Not specified	May not accept AP credit for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

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