

## pre-PHARMACY MAJORS (Suggested Associate in Science Degree Curriculum)

This worksheet is designed to help students select courses which are likely to apply to a **pre-Pharmacy program**. These suggested courses satisfy requirements in the Associate in Science degree program at Prairie State College and provide the basis for transferring to a four-year institution. This program meets the guidelines of the **IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) General Education Core**. Students should obtain a copy of the **Associate in Science Degree Worksheet** and should visit the IAI website a [www.iTransfer.org](http://www.iTransfer.org) for additional information.

### ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR PHARMACY

The practice of clinical pharmacy promotes optimal, safe and appropriate drug use by patients. The clinical pharmacist is trained in all aspects of drug therapy management and patient drug education. The Pre-Pharmacy program provides students with the foundation course work necessary to meet the prerequisites for admission to a school of pharmacy. Pharmacy schools require applicants to complete two years of pre-pharmacy course work. Colleges of Pharmacy then offer the final four years of a six-year program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD). **Admission to these programs is very competitive!**

### SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

*Each senior institution has its own transfer policies. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information in regard to every individual school. Consult the school of your choice and/or the Prairie State College Counseling and Advising Center to discuss the transferability of courses.*

#### TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION CORE (41 credits)

##### Area A: Communications (9 credits)

ENG 101 (3)	[C1 900]*	Composition I (Prereq. ENG 099, C or better, or qualifying score on English Placement Test)
ENG 102 (3)	[C1 901R]*	Composition II (Prereq. ENG 101, C or better)
COMM 101(3)	[C2 900]	Principles of Communication (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

*\*Must have a C or better in ENG 101 & 102 to receive credit for the degree.*

##### Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts (9 credits)

Select three courses with at least one course selected from the humanities area and one course from the fine arts area. Refer to the Associate in Science Degree Worksheet, Area B, for a listing of approved course choices.

Humanities Course (3)	Select any Area B Humanities Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Fine Arts Course (3)	Select any Area B Fine Arts Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)
Humanities/Fine Arts Course (3)	Select any Area B Course (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above)

##### Area C: Mathematics (5 credits)

MATH 171 (5)	[M1 900-1]	Calculus with Analytic Geometry I (Prereq. MATH 165 with C or better of qualifying score on Math Placement Test)
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##### Area D: Physical and Life Sciences (9 credits)

BIOL 112 (4)	[L1 902L]	Organismal Biology (Prereq. High school biology or equivalent)
CHEM 110 (5)	[P1 902L]	General Chemistry I (Prereq. MATH 095 or placement in MATH 151 and high school chem)

##### Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences (9 credits)

Select three courses in at least two different disciplines. Refer to the Associate in Science Degree Worksheet, Area E, for a listing of approved course choices.

ECON 201 (3)	[S3 901]	Macroeconomic Principles (Prereq. Placement in ENG 099 or above) - recommended
ECON 202 (3)	[S3 902]	Microeconomic Principles (Prereq. ECON 201) - recommended
Social/Behavioral Sci Course (3)	Select any Area E course, other than Economics	

#### PRE-PHARMACY COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS (21 credits)

*(Check with the school to which you plan to transfer to verify transferability of courses for this major)*

Select 21 credits from the “suggested” course recommendations listed below:

##### Suggested Pre-Pharmacy Prerequisite courses:

BIOL 111 (4)	Cellular & Molecular Biology (Prereq. High school biology or equivalent with a C or better within the past 5 years)
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BIOL 221 (4)	Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Prereq. BIOL 111 with C or better; OR CHEM 105 with C or better; OR high school chemistry within the past 5 years with C or better)
BIOL 222 (4)	Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Prereq. BIOL 221)
CHEM 130 (5)	General Chemistry II (Prereq. CHEM 110 with C or better)
CHEM 203 (5)	Organic Chemistry I (Prereq. CHEM 130 with C or better)
CHEM 204 (5)	Organic Chemistry II (Prereq. CHEM 203 with C or better)
PHYSI 120 (4)	College Physics I (Prereq. MATH 151)
PHYSI 130 (4)	College Physics II (Prereq. PHYSI 120)

(Note: Some schools have time limits on science courses. Check with the College of Pharmacy you plan to attend)

**Other suggested courses that satisfy the PSC AS degree requirements may include electives such as:**

Any additional general education courses selected from Areas B, C, D or E

Any entry level majors course in a transferable major area

Any foreign language courses\*

Up to four credits of physical education courses

Other courses recommended by the school to which you plan to transfer.

*\*Foreign Language Requirement: Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school, or four semesters in college, will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.*

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## 62 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR AN ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Counseling & Advising Center Room 1190 (708) 709-3506

**FOR TRANSFER INFORMATION:**

u.select, formerly known as Course Applicability System (CAS): <https://www.transfer.org/uselect/>

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI): [www.iTransfer.org](http://www.iTransfer.org)

Links to Articulation Tables for Illinois Colleges: <http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Other/Articulationlinks.taf>

Visit the web sites of colleges and universities to which you plan to transfer.

**FOR PHARMACY INFORMATION:**

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy: [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT): [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info)

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

**COLLEGES OF PHARMACY IN ILLINOIS**

(There are four colleges of pharmacy in Illinois. Contact them for application info and deadlines)

**College of Pharmacy**  
**CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
9501 S. King Drive / 206 Douglas Hall  
Chicago, Illinois 60628-1598  
(773) 821-2500  
[www.csu.edu](http://www.csu.edu)

**Chicago College of Pharmacy**  
**MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
555 31st Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
(630) 971-6417  
[www.midwestern.edu](http://www.midwestern.edu)

**College of Pharmacy**  
**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIV. - EDWARDSVILLE**  
Campus Box 2000  
Edwardsville, IL 62026-2000  
(618) 650-5150  
[www.siu.edu](http://www.siu.edu)

**College of Pharmacy**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS at CHICAGO**  
833 South Wood Street  
Chicago, IL 60612-7227  
(312) 996-7242  
[www.uic.edu](http://www.uic.edu)

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## PHARMACY SCHOOL ADMISSION PROCESS

**Admission to a pharmacy program is very competitive!** There are a limited number of programs across the country and there are many more applicants than spaces available in the programs. It is not unusual for students to apply several times at more than one school. It is also not uncommon for students to complete a baccalaureate degree in another major while attempting to gain admission to a pharmacy program. Pharmacy schools offer only the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program. This means that pharmacy is now a six-year program. Students spend the first two years taking general education and prerequisite courses and then spend the final four years in the College of Pharmacy

### **Common Admission and Application Requirements for Schools of Pharmacy Include:**

1. Completion of a special application to the College of Pharmacy, along with the regular university application for admission. Deadlines to apply to the pharmacy program are always earlier than those set for the university at large, and are strictly adhered to.
2. Completion of all prerequisite courses with a high overall grade point average.
3. Maintain a high grade point average in all the science and math prerequisite courses.
4. Apply for, and take, the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) in January, October or November. For further information about testing visit the website at [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info)
5. Submit letters of recommendation (as specified by the admission committee). *Foster relationships with faculty, especially in the math and science areas, and with counselors, advisors, and employers, so you will have professional people to call upon when you need recommendations.*
6. Submit written essays (usually required as part of the admissions application process) on topic (s) specified by the pharmacy school admission committee.
7. Engage in work and/or volunteer experiences in health care settings to enhance your application. Consider working as a Pharmacy Technician in your community. Document all your experiences in a log or portfolio.

### **What Does the Admissions Committee Look For?**

Most pharmacy programs have established minimum overall grade point averages for applicants. In addition, ability in the science and math courses is seen as the most valuable success indicator for pharmacy students; therefore, most schools also look for a high grade point average in science and math courses. The pharmacy program is academically challenging and the admissions committee is looking for applicants who have demonstrated that they can thrive in this environment because they have taken heavy course loads with multiple science courses, gotten good grades, and successfully completed difficult and challenging courses.

Admission to pharmacy programs is selective and competitive. Most programs look for students with demonstrated academic ability, good moral character, proficiency and clarity in both written and spoken English, a strong potential for professional outlook and behavior, evidence of leadership and maturity, and complete mental and physical competence to perform all tasks regularly expected of a registered pharmacist. In addition, the ability to communicate and relate to patients and their families, read and write reports, teach patients and care givers, and relate to other members of the health care team are regarded as important attributes for pharmacists.

Successful work and/or volunteer experiences enhances a candidate's prospect for acceptance. Other pertinent skills such as ability to use sign language, or fluently speak a language other than English, may add weight to an application.