



## Pharmacy

Pharmacists provide patient-centered, outcome-focused care and play a critical role on healthcare teams. With thousands of prescription and over-the-counter drugs in use, pharmacies have become hubs for medication education and safety. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to improve patient outcomes by monitoring treatments and coordinating with multiple healthcare providers.

Pharmacists work in diverse settings. About 42% are in community pharmacies, while the remaining 58% work in hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, government, universities, and more.<sup>1</sup> The American Pharmacists Association offers Career Option Profiles detailing various roles and working conditions.<sup>2</sup>

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 5% growth in pharmacist employment from 2023 to 2033—slower than average. Median wages as of May 2024 were \$137,480.<sup>3</sup> While demand in hospitals and clinics is rising, retail pharmacy employment may decline due to online and mail-order services. Increased pharmacy school enrollment has led to more graduates, increasing job competition. Completing a residency program can improve job prospects.

**Preparing for Pharmacy School.** Pharmacy schools seek individuals with integrity, compassion, and strong intellectual curiosity. Build your résumé through community service, research, leadership roles, and possibly study abroad or internships. Texas A&M's Professional School Advising offers workshops, advising, and networking opportunities. The Texas A&M Pre-Pharmacy Society is a valuable resource for students exploring the field.

**Confirming your Career in Pharmacy.** Gaining hands-on experience is essential. Shadow pharmacists, work in a pharmacy, or assist with research. Document all experiences (date, location, description), as schools may request this. Becoming a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) is a great way to gain experience and earn income. In Texas, you can begin as a Pharmacy Technician Trainee for up to two years before taking the CPhT exam. Many internships and shadowing programs require this certification, so start early.

**Applying to Pharmacy School.** Apply through PharmCAS, which opens in July, though deadlines vary. Applying by priority deadlines is encouraged. You'll need 2–3 evaluators, so build strong relationships with faculty early. OPSA hosts application strategy workshops to guide you through the process.

**Prerequisites.** Although a degree isn't required, 40% of PharmD students hold one, and many schools prefer degree holders. No specific major is required, but most students choose science-related fields. Use the PharmCAS School Directory (updated in late June/early July) to review prerequisites. The following courses should fulfill pharmacy prerequisites at all nine Texas pharmacy schools, as well as many schools in other states.

While most Texas pharmacy schools have similar requirements, there are variations. For instance, some schools only require six hours of English and some do not require Public Speaking. Also, some schools do not require Anatomy/Physiology or Genetics, but some require both. Additionally, some schools will accept a larger list of courses than is posted here. Applicants should check with individual schools they are considering to ensure that they complete the correct course work and/or request a waiver or substitution for that school. If you take these courses at another college or university, you should also check with pharmacy schools to ensure that the course will satisfy the pharmacy school.

<sup>1</sup>Pharmacists for Healthier Lives [pharmacistsforhealthierlives.org](https://pharmacistsforhealthierlives.org) (visited 5/21/2025).

<sup>2</sup>American Pharmacists Association [www.pharmacist.com/career-option-profiles](https://www.pharmacist.com/career-option-profiles) (visited 5/21/2025)

<sup>3</sup>US Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacists.htm> (visited 5/21/2025)

## Texas Pharmacy Prerequisites

Required Course	Texas A&M course(s)	Hours
General Biology	BIOL 111 & 112	8
General Chemistry	CHEM 119 & 120	8
Organic Chemistry I & II	CHEM 227/237 & 228/238 or CHEM 257 & 258	8
Physics	PHYS 201	4
Microbiology	BIOL 351, VTPB 405, or VTPB 425 & 426	4
Anatomy & Physiology	BIOL 319 & 320 *	8
Genetics	GENE 301 or 320	3
Calculus	MATH 147, 151 or 171	4
Statistics	STAT 201, 211, 301, 302, or 303**	3
English	ENGL 103 & 104, and one sophomore lit class ***	9
Public Speaking	COMM 203	3
Texas Core Curriculum	Complete (Science, Math and Communication included in courses listed above)	21
		83

**UTEP requires one semester of Spanish or placement credit for Spanish 101.**

**UHCOP requires PBSI 107 or SOCI 205, which can be selected for Core Curriculum Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement.**

**UIW requires a Philosophy, which can be selected for your Core Curriculum Language, Philosophy and Culture requirement.**

\* Some schools will accept VIBS 305 and VTPB 423, but it is your responsibility to check

\*\* You must check with individual schools if you took psychology statistics or business statistics or other statistics course.

\*\*\* If you do not have ENGL103, schools may substitute another English course, such as 203 or 210, or a second literature course. Some schools only require 104 and a lit class.

## Pharmacy Schools in Texas

<b>Texas A&amp;M University</b> - Kingsville and College Station Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy	<a href="http://pharmacy.tamu.edu">pharmacy.tamu.edu</a>
<b>Texas Southern University</b> - Houston College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	<a href="http://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/college-of-pharmacy-and-health-sciences/admissions-overview/">www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/college-of-pharmacy-and-health-sciences/admissions-overview/</a>
<b>Texas Tech University HSC</b> - Abilene, Amarillo, Dallas and Lubbock Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy	<a href="http://ttuhsc.edu/pharmacy">ttuhsc.edu/pharmacy</a>
<b>The University of Texas at Austin</b> College of Pharmacy	<a href="http://pharmacy.utexas.edu">pharmacy.utexas.edu</a>
<b>The University of Texas at El Paso</b> School of Pharmacy	<a href="http://utep.edu/pharmacy">utep.edu/pharmacy</a>
<b>The University of Texas at Tyler</b> Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy	<a href="http://uttyler.edu/pharmacy">uttyler.edu/pharmacy</a>
<b>University of Houston</b> College of Pharmacy	<a href="http://uh.edu/pharmacy/">uh.edu/pharmacy/</a>
<b>University of North Texas Health Science Center</b> – Fort Worth College of Pharmacy	<a href="http://unthsc.edu/college-of-pharmacy">unthsc.edu/college-of-pharmacy</a>
<b>University of the Incarnate Word</b> - San Antonio Feik School of Pharmacy	<a href="http://pharmacy.uiw.edu">pharmacy.uiw.edu</a>

Texas currently has nine pharmacy schools with 13 locations.

**Professional School Advising**  
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