

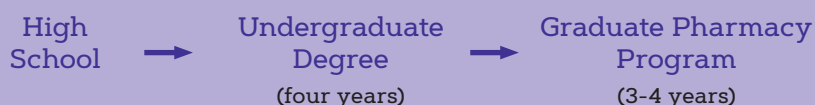
PRE-PHARMACY

MINOR

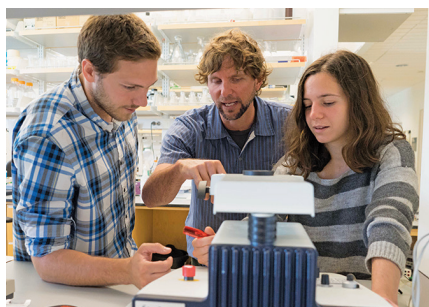
Pharmacists are drug-therapy experts who use their knowledge of medicines to benefit their patients and educate other health professionals. A pharmacist must understand the use, clinical effects and composition of drugs, including their chemical, biological and physical properties. They may also need to suggest substitutions for a drug based on side effects, cost or availability. Pharmacists also administer vaccinations and perform simple diagnostic tests.

Most pharmacists work in a community setting (e.g. retail pharmacies, hospitals, other health care facilities). Others work in the pharmaceutical industry, for health insurance companies or for government agencies.

To practice as a pharmacist, a student must graduate from an accredited pharmacy program with the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree and then pass a licensure exam. Most pharmacy programs require a completed undergraduate degree before admission to pharmacy school.



No specific major is required. The profession will be stronger and more enriched by being made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds. As long as you successfully complete the prerequisite courses you can compete for admission, regardless of major. Allow yourself to explore a wide range of different interests early in your college career. When you find something you enjoy, chances are you will do well in it. Let your own curiosity be your guide.



Perks of the Profession

Pharmacists consistently rank among the top most trusted professionals.

EXCELLENT INCOME

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a median annual income of \$128,570 (2021 data).

FLEXIBILITY IN THE JOB

Pharmacists have a choice of a wide variety of health care settings in which to work and frequently can choose between full-time and part-time employment.

SPECIALIZATION

After completion of the Pharm D, pharmacists can choose to specialize in one of 12 recognized specialty areas including critical care pharmacy, psychiatric pharmacy and oncology pharmacy.

Regional Pharmacy Programs

- Appalachian College of Pharmacy
- Campbell University
- Shenandoah University
- University of Florida
- University of Maryland
- University of North Carolina
- Virginia Commonwealth University



Students in the Pre-Pharmacy minor must take courses in:

- Anatomy (1)
- Physiology (1)
- Chemistry (4)
- Biochemistry (1)
- Physics (1)
- Biology (3)
- Statistics (1)
- Calculus (1)
- Psychology (1)
- Sociology (1)
- Economics (1)
- Public Speaking (1)
- Writing (1)
- Literature (1)

Contact Information

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OTHER LINKS

American Pharmaceutical Association:
pharmacist.com

Explore Health Careers:
www.explorehealthcareers.org

JMU Pre-Pharmacy Minor



JMU students who are interested in becoming a pharmacist can choose to enroll in the pre-pharmacy minor. The minor includes courses required for admission to graduate pharmacy programs.

JMU students graduating between 2019 and 2022 had a 97% rate of acceptance to pharmacy programs.

At JMU, students interested in pharmacy most commonly choose biology, chemistry or health sciences for their major but other majors are possible.

Admission to pharmacy programs is competitive. In addition to the prerequisite coursework, students will most likely need to

- Maintain a math/science GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 grading scale). To be a competitive applicant, students generally need a higher GPA.
- Obtain letters of recommendation.
- Seek experiences such as being a pharmacy technician, shadowing a pharmacist, or working with a pharmacy researcher.

At JMU, pre-professional health advisors are available to guide students in course selection and in the other activities required for a pharmacy applicant to be competitive.