



Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Tip Sheet 2023

PROGRAM DETAILS

In pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), you move towards becoming eligible for a license to practice as a pharmacist. Subjects studied in pharmacy include the pharmaceutical sciences (pharmaceutics), pharmacokinetics, pharmacology, pharmacy practice, etc. Students gain experience through a coordinated experiential program in clinical and research work, as well as opportunities for international exchanges. A Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree takes four years, full-time to complete. This does not include the required pre-professional study.

Quota: 130 Students

Minimum Standards: Typically, competitive applicants usually present with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.3. To be ranked highly, students should aim for the following GPA: Alberta Students: 3.5 or greater (4-point scale), Out of Province Students: 3.7 or higher (4-point scale).

Please note: meeting the minimum standards does not guarantee admission.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for admission to the Pharmacy Program are the satisfactory completion of 60 units of transferable work, including:

- General Chemistry (6 units) – Choose CHEM 101 and CHEM 102
- Organic Chemistry (6 units) – Choose CHEM 261 AND CHEM 263
- English (which may include up to 3 units in Writing Studies) (6 units)
- Biology (Cell Biology) (3 units) – Choose BIOL 107
- Biochemistry (3 units) – Choose BIOCH 200
- Mathematics (Algebra or Calculus) (3 units)
- Statistics (3 units) – Choose STAT 141 or STAT 151
- Microbiology (3 units) – Choose MICRB 265
- Human Physiology (6 units) – Choose PHYSL 210A/B or PHYSL 212/214

The remaining units can be made up by successful completion of a combination of university level course work.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Please visit our [website](#) for the forms outlined in points 1, 2, and 3.

1. The “Letter of Intent”, which will be included in your application portal once you apply, provides an opportunity for you to convey career goals, knowledge of the profession, employment or volunteer experience, and other personal attributes.
2. Students are required to speak with a practicing pharmacist that you have no conflict of interest with (e.g. familial connections) to find out first-hand about the profession. Please have the pharmacist fill out the [Pharmacist Consultation form](#) that you will be able to download and upload to your application portal once you apply.
3. The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta must ensure its students provide safe and effective health care for patients and to acceptably meet all essential skills and abilities as described in the [Essential Skills and Abilities](#) for Entry to Practice PharmD Program document that is included in the application. After review of this document, students must acknowledge the responsibilities by way of this mandatory student declaration in the application portal.
4. Interview – A web-based interview is required as part of the admission process.
5. Some students are required to meet the spoken English requirement (see the [University of Alberta Calendar - English Language Proficiency](#)). This will be added to your checklist if it applies to you.
6. It is your responsibility to ensure that Course Descriptions are provided for any post secondary coursework completed outside of Canada. The course descriptions checklist can be found [HERE](#).

Selection Process

Students are ranked based on a combination of the following:

- Overall GPA-- calculated using your most recent two years of full course load (defined as at least 18 units or more during Fall/Winter only). This applies to students applying after more than two years of study. However, students applying in their second year of study will need to complete all 60 units including prerequisites by the June 15th transcript deadline.
- GPA in the foundational biological science prerequisite courses – these include Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Human Physiology.
- GPA in your highest unit-weight year (Fall/Winter only).

Once applicants are ranked on the above criteria, the web-based interview is used to assess the candidate’s ability to formulate a cohesive and logical response to the interview questions, and their ability to convey their ideas in an effective manner. The response in the Letter of Intent is

also carefully reviewed for grammar, content, and completeness. It is required that the Letter of Intent be written solely by the applicant, and an attestation to this is required upon submission.

The Admissions Committee has the responsibility of selecting the applicants who have demonstrated the greatest promise to successfully complete the program, and gain licensure as pharmacists. The Pharmacy program has a limit on the number of applicants it can accept, and admission is competitive.

Recommended Alberta High School Prerequisites (or equivalent):

- English Language Arts 30-1
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 30
- Mathematics 30-1

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: March 1, 2023