

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Pharmacy

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Pharmacy**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The PCAT evaluates knowledge in biology, chemistry, writing, critical reading, and quantitative reasoning.

Paid or volunteer clinical experience in a pharmacy or health-related setting is highly recommended or required in preparation for pharmacy school. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective pharmacy professional as it allows you to gain valuable insight into your decision whether pharmacy is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from a professional in the field, which may be a vital element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Pharmacy

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
COMM	C1000	Public Speaking	3
ECON	C2001	Principles of Microeconomics	3
or ECON	C2002	Principles of Macroeconomics	(3)
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)

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Prefix	Number	Title	Units
MATH	170	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I	4
MATH	190	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	4
MICR	200	Principles and Applications of Microbiology	5
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
PHYS	102	General Physics	4

Doctor of Pharmacy programs also may require upper division biochemistry, physiology, and cellular and molecular biology courses, which are not offered at Cerritos College. Additionally, students following a pre-pharmacy pathway are advised to take introductory psychology, sociology, or anthropology courses (e.g., PSYC C1000, SOCI C1000, ANTH 100), as well as foreign language courses.

California Pharmacy Schools

- [California Health Sciences University](#)
- [California Northstate University](#)
- [Chapman University](#)
- [Keck Graduate Institute](#)
- [Loma Linda University](#)
- [Marshal B. Ketchum University](#)
- [Touro University](#)
- [University of California, Irvine](#)
- [University of California, San Diego](#)
- [University of California, San Francisco](#)
- [University of Southern California](#)
- [University of the Pacific](#)
- [West Coast University](#)
- [Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Additional Resources

- [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](https://www.aacp.org) (https://www.aacp.org)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)