Pharmacy School Requirements

Required Courses:
1 year of General Biology - Bio 225/225L/221/221L
1 year of General Chemistry - Chem 151/151L/152/152L
1 year of Organic Chemistry - Chem 301/301L/302/302L
1 year of General Physics - Phys 136/136L/137/137L or Phys 270/270L/271/271L
1 year of English USD Core Requirement – Eng 121 + Upper Division Writing course
1 year of Calculus – Math 150/Math 151
1 semester of Economics - Econ 101

Many schools require:
Human Anatomy & Physiology – Bio 212/213
Psychology - Psych 101
Communication – Comm 203
Microbiology – Bio 342
Biochemistry – Chem 331

These courses will satisfy the requirements for most pharmacy schools. Make sure that you check for additional requirements at your selected schools, the variation is quite extensive. Most schools want you to have completed the required courses prior to the time of application. Also, note that many schools will not accept AP credit in lieu of the required courses (even if accepted by USD). You must then substitute advanced science courses for the traditional requirements satisfied with AP credits.

PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)
California schools do not require the PCAT but many schools outside of California do. You need to take this at least one year prior to the year you matriculate (spring of your junior year if you plan to start medical school right after graduation).

Extracurricular Activities
Clinical: Experiences in pharmacy settings are important ways for you to learn about the field of pharmacy and are required by most schools. Some schools also recommend letters of recommendation from a pharmacist.

Research: Research experiences are strongly recommended by many pharmacy schools. Choose any type of research that interests you – on or off campus – paid or unpaid.

Community Service/Leadership: There are many opportunities on and off campus to become involved. It’s always best to find something that you’re very interested in and become involved. Try to refrain from the checkbox approach where you do one day of this and one day of that – it’s not looked upon favorably. You don’t need to have all sorts of different experiences, it’s best to have meaningful ones.

Web Resources: www.aacp.org American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

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