

# Taking Interest In Pharmacy School

Awareness

Investigation

Participation

Preparation

Application

# Awareness

---

- Learn about opportunities in pharmacy.
- Speak with working pharmacists to gain a better understanding of rewards and challenges in the field.
- Collect and review information from schools of pharmacy as well as pharmacy professional organizations.
- Volunteer or shadow a pharmacist at a local hospital or in a community pharmacy to get a first-hand glimpse of pharmacists in action.
- Attend recruitment programs offered by the pharmacy program to learn more about careers in pharmacy, the curriculum and admissions requirements.

# Investigation

---

- Research prospective colleges online, or contact them directly.
- Learn about the curriculum, features of the PharmD program, faculty, services, and opportunities for students.

# Participation

---

- Demonstrate commitment to the field of pharmacy by participating in pre-pharmacy and pre-health organizations on campus; these organizations provide a great way to learn about the field and meet other students with similar interests.
- Establish a record of service to others through volunteering, extracurricular involvement, leadership roles, tutoring, and active membership in service organizations.

# Preparation

---

- Develop a plan for completing the academic prerequisites for admission.
- Take the initiative to get to know your instructors; develop good relationships to ask for a positive letter of recommendation.
- Study hard – there is no substitute for good grades! A strong academic record indicates that you are prepared for the rigor of pharmacy school.
- Demonstrate your potential to carry a full academic load (14 to 16 credits/units per term), including higher-level courses.
- Get help with academics, if needed. Seek out on-campus resources, including tutors, instructors, and academic support centers for help with study skills and time management.
- Demonstrate good balance between your academic and personal life.

# Application

---

- Review PharmCAS's "Preparing to Apply" on how to best prepare for the PharmCAS submission process.
- Complete all application materials accurately, professionally, and as early as possible. Pay close attention to policies, procedures, due dates, and deadlines.
- Take time to develop your personal statement; ensure your essay and answers are clearly written. Each word counts!
- If there are extenuating circumstances that have affected your education and academic achievement (e.g. working while in school, family responsibilities, emergencies) be sure to communicate these challenges as you complete your application.
- List extracurricular activities (high school, college, community) and any leadership positions.
- Communicate with schools promptly and professionally. Make sure contact information is up-to-date and indicates the best way to reach you. Check your designated email routinely to ensure that you do not miss an important message from schools.