



**PHARMACISTS: IMPROVING HEALTH,**  
**TRANSFORMING LIVES**  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI **SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**





# Pharmacists: Improving Health, Transforming Lives

If you are a highly motivated student with an interest in science and are committed to improving the health of people in your community, then becoming a pharmacist may be the ideal career path for you.

## *What do pharmacists do?*

Pharmacists are the vital – and most accessible – medication experts on a patient’s health care team. They ensure patients get the right medications in the correct doses, keep track of all medications patients take to prevent harmful interactions, and offer advice to physicians and patients to help manage their medication therapies. **Millions of Americans trust pharmacists** to administer their immunizations and help them manage chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

While the majority of pharmacists work in community pharmacies, there is an unprecedented demand for pharmacists in a wide variety of occupational settings.

For a complete list of career opportunities, visit [pharmacy.olemiss.edu/careers.html](http://pharmacy.olemiss.edu/careers.html)

Average annual starting salaries of our recent graduates range from \$105,000 to \$122,000 depending upon where they practice. **Pharmacists enjoy one of the highest employment rates of any profession in the country.** Few degrees match a pharmacy degree’s versatility, value and return on investment.

## *How do I become a pharmacist?*

To become a pharmacist, you must earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and pass the national licensure examination. Earning a Pharm.D. from the

University of Mississippi requires seven years of collegiate study, including three years of prescribed pre-pharmacy courses and four years of professional pharmacy courses.

## *Why the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy?*

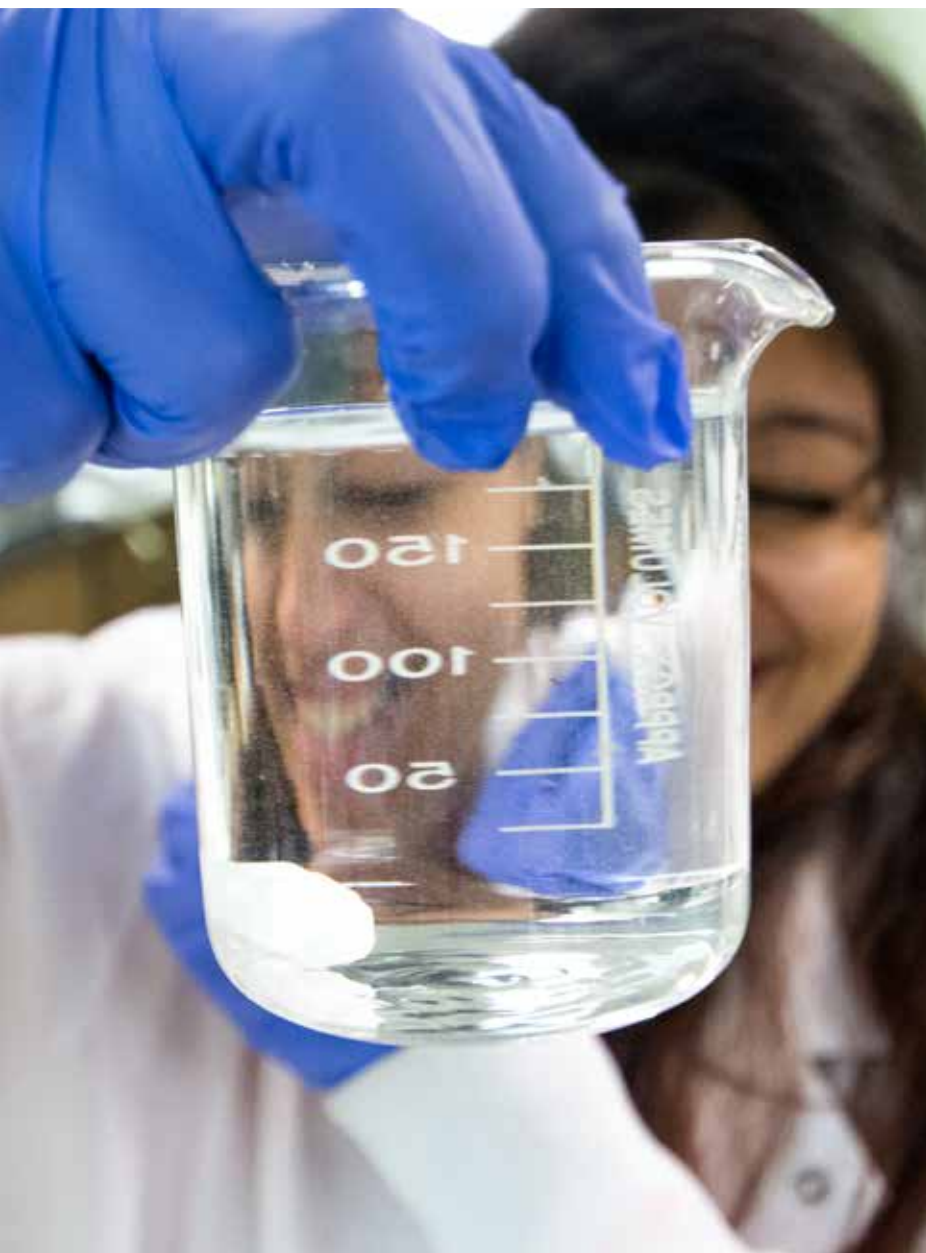
Our programs foster mastery of the practical and theoretical knowledge and analytical, communications and teamwork skills needed in today’s rapidly changing health care environment. **Graduates of the UM School of Pharmacy are highly sought-after by employers.** They are leaders and managers in biomedical research companies, hospitals, government agencies, universities and every imaginable practice setting.

## *Outstanding teachers, mentors and preceptors*

The UM School of Pharmacy’s international reputation for excellence in teaching, practice, research and service stems from its dynamic faculty, whose diverse interests and experiences serve our students and surrounding communities, as well as the global community.

In addition to its full-time teaching and research faculty, the school has more than 300 pharmacists serving as preceptors at sites in Mississippi and the Mid-South. These preceptors will acquaint you with patient care in a variety of settings during your professional rotations.





### *Special places*

Oxford Campus – Pre-pharmacy, Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharm.D. students take classes on UM’s main campus in Oxford. While studying here, students enjoy such activities as shopping, fine dining and listening to local music on the historic Oxford Square, as well as fishing, camping and kayaking on Sardis Lake.

Jackson Campus – Students in the third professional year move to UM’s Medical Center in Jackson for active learning and practice experiences. Jackson is the center of the state’s bustling medical enterprise, and its hospitals, medical offices and clinics provide numerous opportunities for students to begin their career-long interactions with health professionals.

### *Impeccable credentials*

- **In 2013, our students’ pass rate on the national licensure exam was 100 percent for first-time test takers.**
- The UM School of Pharmacy has been consistently ranked among top schools in the nation for external research funding.
- The University of Mississippi is highly affordable with tuition among the nation’s lowest and many of our programs among the nation’s finest (e.g., Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College).
- In 2013, Oxford was named the second-best small town in the nation by Livability.com.

### *Accreditation*

The University of Mississippi is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and its Doctor of Pharmacy program was fully reaccredited in 2012 by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education ([acpe-accredit.org](http://acpe-accredit.org)).

# Early-Entry Program

The University of Mississippi's unique early-entry program can help you accelerate your exciting career in pharmacy.

Through the program, qualified high school seniors can be admitted directly into the School of Pharmacy's professional degree program and avoid the competitive selection process for regular-entry admission.

All students who complete the three-year pre-pharmacy (pre-professional) program and first year of the professional curriculum receive a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree.

B.S.P.S. graduates must complete three additional years of study to earn the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree and sit for the national licensure exam to practice pharmacy.

## Early-entry advantages

The primary advantage of the program is that students avoid the competitive selection process for admission into the professional pharmacy program, which traditionally occurs following completion of three academic years of required pre-professional courses. Early-entry students are also assured a position in the first-year professional class, if requirements are met.

Early-entry students are eligible for special School of Pharmacy recruiting scholarships and have access to School of Pharmacy performance-based scholarships three years earlier than regular-entry students.

Students in the early-entry program can engage in professional and personal relationships with faculty and

upperclassmen immediately upon entering the university. They may also participate in professional student organizations and leadership development programs earlier.

## Selection process

Acceptance into the early-entry program is based on an applicant's academic ability and aptitude for the study of pharmacy. Two primary factors considered in the selection process are performance on the ACT or SAT and high school grade-point average. Extracurricular activities (e.g., service, leadership and employment) and performance during a campus interview are also considered.







To be considered for early-entry admission students must:

- Attain a minimum of **25 on their ACT** or a minimum of 1130 [Math (M) plus Verbal (V)] or 1700 (M+V+Writing) on their SAT. Students must attain a minimum of **25 Math ACT** subscore or equivalent Math subscore on the SAT.
- Equal or exceed a score of 65 when inserting composite ACT score (or SAT equivalent) and high school GPA into this formula: composite

ACT + (10 x GPA). For example, a 31 on the ACT and a 3.5 GPA would yield a score of 66.

An adjusted GPA resulting from participation in advanced placement or honors courses will be used if provided by a high school official.

Over the past five years, incoming early-entry classes have had an average ACT score of 29.1 and an average GPA of 4.17, and approximately two-thirds of the students are Mississippians.

## Scholarships

The School of Pharmacy offers seven-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year to selected early-entry applicants. Continuation of these scholarships is dependent upon retaining early-entry status. All accepted applicants are considered candidates for these awards, and recipients are selected based on admission criteria.

Following completion of the freshman year, all participants who achieve at least a 3.5 GPA on required courses will receive a performance scholarship for the second year. The scholarship amount will be increased each succeeding year that the 3.5 GPA on required courses in the preceding year is maintained, through completion of the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

## Maintaining early-entry status

To maintain status in the early-entry program, a student must:

- Maintain continuous university enrollment (excluding summer terms) and enroll in a minimum of 14 hours per semester
- Take all required courses at the Oxford campus. Electives may be taken during the summer session, intersession or at another institution. A student must complete requirements for the B.S.P.S. degree by the end of his or her fourth year of college.
- Achieve a GPA of at least 3.50 on required courses attempted the first year, at least a 3.25 cumulative GPA on required courses attempted the second and third years, and at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA the remaining years.
- Early-entry students who have less than a 3.25 GPA will be dismissed from the early-entry program and will be changed to pre-pharmacy status.

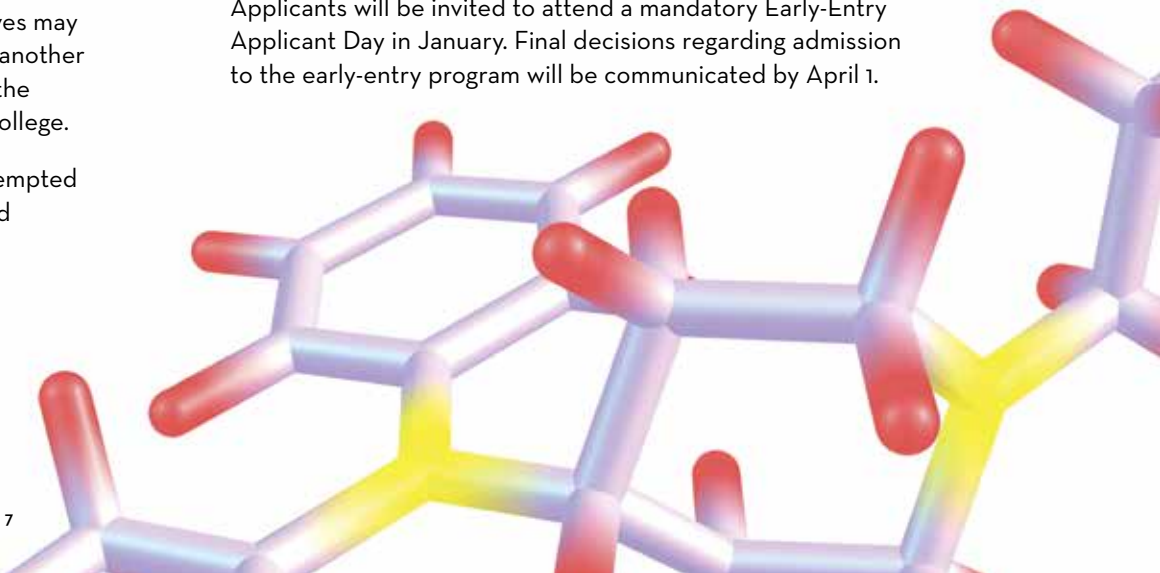
- Receive no grades below C in required courses.
- Obtain a composite scaled score of at least 400 on the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test) and a 3.0 on the PCAT Writing Test prior to the end of the spring semester of the junior year.

Often, students unable to complete the early-entry program transfer to pre-pharmacy student status and gain admission to the professional degree program through regular-entry admission.

## Deadline for application

To be considered for early entry into the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, qualified students must submit an undergraduate application to the University of Mississippi in addition to completing the University of Mississippi's Special Programs and Scholarship Application by January 5. When applying to the university, applicants should select "pre-pharmacy" as their major under the School of Pharmacy listing. Both applications are made available at [olemiss.edu](http://olemiss.edu).

Applicants will be invited to attend a mandatory Early-Entry Applicant Day in January. Final decisions regarding admission to the early-entry program will be communicated by April 1.









# Pre-Pharmacy Program

The University of Mississippi's pre-pharmacy curriculum fosters mastery of the practical and theoretical knowledge and analytical and communications skills needed for admission to today's Pharm.D. programs.

## How can I jump-start my pharmacy career?

You must complete three years of pre-pharmacy (pre-professional) courses, which may be taken at a community college, the University of Mississippi or another four-year college or university, or a combination of these options.

## Elective choices

Social or Behavioral Sciences	Humanities	Fine Arts*
Anthropology 101	Classics 101, 102, 206	Art (any)
African American Studies 170, 201, 202	English (any)	Art History (any)
Economics (not 202)	Gender Studies 201	Music 103, 104
Journalism 101	Modern Languages (any)	Theatre Arts 201
Political Science 101	History 101, 102, 105, 106, 160, 180	Dance (any)
Psychology 201	Southern Studies 101	
Sociology 101	Religion 101	
Social Work (any)	Philosophy 101, 103	

\*Performance-based fine arts courses are acceptable.

## What do I do next?

Once you have completed your pre-pharmacy requirements, you must complete four years of professional pharmacy course work to earn a Pharm.D. At the University of Mississippi, students who complete the pre-pharmacy program and first year of the professional curriculum receive a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (B.S.P.S.) degree.

## What pre-pharmacy courses do I need to take?

UM Course Required		Credit
Writing I (English Composition I)	WRIT 101	3
Writing II (English Composition II)	WRIT 102	3
Speech	SPCH 102/105	3
Calculus I	MATH 261	3
Chemistry I	CHEM 105, 115	4
Chemistry II	CHEM 106, 116	4
Biology I	BISC 160, 161	4
Biology II	BISC 162, 163	4
Statistics	MATH 115	3
Microeconomics	ECON 202	3
Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 221, 225	4
Organic Chemistry II	CHEM 222, 226	4
Physics I	PHYS 213, 223	4
Physics II	PHYS 214, 224	4
Social Sciences	See elective choices	6
Humanities and Fine Arts	See elective choices	9
Bioethics (Biomedical Ethics)	PHAD 395 or PHIL 328	3
Biochemistry (Metabolic)	PHCL 343 or CHEM 473	3
Physiology (Human Physiology)	PHCL 344 or BISC 330	4
Medical Microbiology	PHCG 321	3
Introductory Cell Biology (Cell and Molecular Biology BISC 440 also accepted)	BISC 372	3
Immunology	BISC 414	3
Genetics	BISC 336	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>88</b>

## Admission

You may apply for admission to the professional program of the UM School of Pharmacy while completing your pre-pharmacy courses. For more information, see the Professional Program section.



# Professional Program

The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy offers the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Studies (B.S.P.S) degree and the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), the entry-level degree that entitles graduates to sit for the national licensure examination and to practice pharmacy.

## *Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences*

This four-year, undergraduate degree consists of three years of pre-pharmacy (pre-professional) courses and one year of professional pharmacy course work. Although those interested in practicing pharmacy are required to complete three additional years of study to earn the Pharm.D. degree, career options abound for B.S.P.S. graduates. These could include opportunities in pharmaceutical sales, marketing and research, as well as graduate and professional degree programs such as pharmacy, medicine, dentistry or law.

To progress to the Pharm.D. program, students must possess a B.S.P.S. degree, earn a 2.65 GPA on required courses in the first year of the professional pharmacy program (PY1) and earn no grade below a C in those required PY1 courses.

## *Admission*

Students can be admitted into the B.S.P.S. program as university freshmen (early-entry admission) or after completing a set of required pre-professional courses (regular-entry admission). Pre-professional courses may be taken at a community college, the University of Mississippi or another four-year college or university, or a combination of these options. All third year pre-professional courses must be taken at a four-year institution. Each entering professional class is limited to 115 students.





## Eligibility

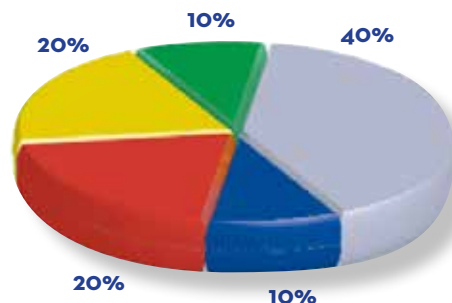
For more details on eligibility for early-entry admission, see the Early-Entry Program section.

Minimum requirements for regular-entry admission include a 2.75 GPA on required pre-pharmacy courses (**pharmacy.olemiss.edu/prepharmacy**), with a minimum grade of C in each. In addition, applicants must have completed 15 credit hours of social sciences, humanities and fine arts electives.

A minimum composite scaled score of 395 on the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), taken during the calendar year of the application deadline, is also required. For example, a candidate applying for admission in November 2015 to begin in the fall of 2016 would have taken the PCAT during the 2015 calendar year prior to the application deadline. In addition, a 3.0 on the PCAT Writing Test is required.

Students are admitted based on a composite admission score obtained as follows:

- GPA on Required Pre-pharmacy Courses** (4.0 maximum)
- PCAT Composite Scaled Score** (2.0 maximum)
- Critical Thinking Appraisal** (1.0 maximum)
- Leadership, Service and Work Experience** (2.0 maximum)
- Interview** (1.0 maximum)



Bonus points are added to the admission scores of applicants who have achieved at least a 2.75 on required pre-professional courses and who complete their required pre-pharmacy courses at the University of Mississippi (0.4) or who have already received a master's or higher degree (0.5). In the fall of 2015, admitted regular-entry students had an average GPA of 3.48, and their average PCAT score was 408.

## Applications

### Early Decision Application Process

The Early Decision Program is encouraged if the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy is the applicant's first choice and the applicant intends to enroll if accepted. The early decision option allows for application to only one pharmacy degree program/institution during the current cycle. However, if the applicant is deferred to regular applicant status, the application will roll in to the institution's regular admissions cycle, and the applicant may then apply to additional pharmacy programs for an additional fee. For further information regarding the Early Decision Program, visit **pharmcas.org/applicants/edp.htm**.

Early decision applicants must submit the online PharmCAS application (**pharmcas.org**) by the deadline listed on the School of Pharmacy's admissions website ([pharmacy.olemiss.edu/admissions.html](http://pharmacy.olemiss.edu/admissions.html)). Failure to do so will result in an automatic change to regular applicant status. Early decision applicants must also submit the online UM Special Programs and Scholarship Application and \$85 application fee by the requested deadline.

Early decision interviews will be held in early October. PharmCAS institutions will announce early decisions as soon as possible, but no later than October 24. Upon notification of admission to the program, a \$500 nonrefundable seat deposit will be required to hold the applicant's seat in the program.

### Regular Admissions Application Process

Applications for regular-entry admission must be submitted online via the Pharmacy College Application Service (**pharmacas.org**) by the deadline listed on the School of Pharmacy's admissions website (**pharmacy.olemiss.edu/admissions**). Regular admissions applicants must also submit the online UM Special Programs and Scholarship Application and \$85 application fee by the requested deadline.

Per our rolling admissions policy, applicants are interviewed and admissions decisions are made on a continual basis from October until the class is filled. If not immediately accepted, applications will roll over to the next round of committee reviews. Seats fill quickly, so early application is strongly encouraged.

Regular admissions interviews will be conducted continually from October to February as determined by the assistant dean for student services (Oxford).

All applicants will be notified of their admissions status no later than April 1. Upon notification of admission to the program, a \$500 nonrefundable seat deposit will be required to hold the applicant's seat in the program.







## For More Information

### *University of Mississippi Admissions Office*

662-915-7226

[admissions@olemiss.edu](mailto:admissions@olemiss.edu)

[admissions.olemiss.edu](http://admissions.olemiss.edu)

### *School of Pharmacy Office of Student Services*

662-915-7996

[pharmstuservices@olemiss.edu](mailto:pharmstuservices@olemiss.edu)

[pharmacy.olemiss.edu](http://pharmacy.olemiss.edu)

### *Graduate School*

662-915-7474

[gschool@olemiss.edu](mailto:gschool@olemiss.edu)

[gradschool.olemiss.edu](http://gradschool.olemiss.edu)

### *Financial Aid*

800-891-4596

[finaid@olemiss.edu](mailto:finaid@olemiss.edu)

[finaid.olemiss.edu](http://finaid.olemiss.edu)

### *Student Housing*

662-915-7328

[housing@olemiss.edu](mailto:housing@olemiss.edu)

[studenthousing.olemiss.edu](http://studenthousing.olemiss.edu)

All communication should be directed to the proper university office and addressed to:

**The University of Mississippi**

**P.O. Box 1848**

**University, MS 38677-1848**

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