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Pharmacists: Improving Health, Transforming Lives

If you are a highly motivated student with an interest in science and are committed to improving public health in your community and beyond, 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 list of career opportunities, visit: pharmacy.olemiss.edu/careers-in-pharmacy.

Average annual starting salaries of full-time pharmacists 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 Pharm.D. degree and pass the national licensure and law 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 350 pharmacists serving as preceptors at sites in Mississippi and the Mid-South. These preceptors will acquaint students with patient care in a variety of settings during their 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 living 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

- Graduating students from the School of Pharmacy have a 100% job or residency placement rate as of May 2016.
- 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).
- Touted as the “cultural mecca of the South,” creativity abounds in Oxford as musicians, artists and writers alike find inspiration in Oxford’s rich history, small town charm and creative community.

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).
Early-Entry Program

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

Through this 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 (B.S.P.S.) 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 exams 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 complete the ACT with preferred composite score of 25 or 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.

Incoming early-entry students for 2017 have an average ACT score of 28.3 and an average GPA of 4.0, and approximately two-thirds of the students are Mississippians.

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

- Preferred ACT: 10%
- Leadership, Service and Work Experience: 25%
- Critical Thinking Appraisal: 30%
- Composite GPA: 10%
- Interview: 25%
Scholarships

The School of Pharmacy offers ten, seven-year scholarships of $1,000 per year to selected early-entry non-resident 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. Students must complete requirements for the B.S.P.S. degree by the end of their fourth year of college.
- Achieve a GPA of at least 3.5 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 Pharmaceutical Sciences as their major under the School of Pharmacy listing. Both applications are made available at olemiss.edu.

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

What do I do next?
Once you have completed your pre-pharmacy requirements, you must complete four years of professional pharmacy coursework 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.

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.

Advantages
Being a part of the pre-pharmacy community has many advantages:

- Pre-pharmacy students are advised by School of Pharmacy staff and administrators who are well versed in the application and admission process for the professional program.

- Pre-pharmacy students can participate in Student Body and School of Pharmacy organizational opportunities and activities, e.g., Pre-Pharmacy Club, Pharmacy Fiesta, Pharmacy Formal, Pharmacy Olympics and service projects.

- The UM School of Pharmacy is committed to making all required pre-pharmacy courses available to Ole Miss pre-pharmacy students. Very few institutions of higher learning in Mississippi offer all required pre-pharmacy courses on a regular basis.

- Pre-pharmacy students are provided with free tutoring, time management and study skills, interview skills and an EDHE 105 Freshman Year Experience course specifically for pre-pharmacy students.
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 coursework. Those interested in practicing pharmacy are required to complete three additional years of study to earn the Pharm.D. degree. Career options for Pharm.D. graduates 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 2.75 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 preferred 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 current testing cycle, is preferred. In addition, a 3.0 on the PCAT Writing Test is preferred.

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

- **Interview**
- **Leadership, Service and Work Experience**
- **Critical Thinking Appraisal**
- **GPA on Required Pre-pharmacy Courses**
- **PCAT Composite Scaled Score**

Bonus points are added to the admission scores of applicants who have already received a master’s or higher degree (0.5). In the fall of 2017, admitted regular-entry students had an average GPA of 3.6, and their average PCAT score was 410.

Additionally, all applicants have the opportunity to earn bonus points for admission with participation in pharmacy events and shadowing experiences. For more information on this Pre-Pharmacy Factor Bonus (up to 0.4), visit: pharmacy.olemiss.edu/prepharmacy/index/aboutprepharm/advantagesprepharm.

Applications

Early Decision Application Process

The Early Decision Program is encouraged if the UM 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 into 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). 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.

Upon notification of admission to the program, a 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 (pharmcas.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 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 March 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 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
admissions.olemiss.edu

School of Pharmacy Office of Student Services
662-915-7996
pharmstuservices@olemiss.edu
pharmacy.olemiss.edu/studentaffairs

Graduate School
662-915-7474
gschool@olemiss.edu
gradschool.olemiss.edu

Financial Aid
800-891-4596
finaid@olemiss.edu
finaid.olemiss.edu

Student Housing
662-915-7328
housing@olemiss.edu
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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Which Pharmacy Path is Right for You?

**Regular-Entry**
Pre-pharmacy major or transfer student

**Benefits:**
In-house tutoring and advising
Freshman Year Experience courses
Mentoring
Professional/pharmacy clubs
Social events

**Application Deadline:**
March 1

**Early-Entry**
High-performing high school student planning to attend UM Pharmacy School

**Benefits:**
All benefits of Regular Entry, plus:
Guaranteed spot in Professional Program (Pre-Pharmacy Factor)
Opportunity to live in the Early-Entry Living Learning Community

**Application Deadline:**
January 5