

Pre-Health Professions at Truman State University

December 6, 2017

Spotlight on Health Professions: Pharmacist

What is a Pharmacist?

A pharmacist dispenses medications and works with doctors and patients to promote the safe and proper use of prescriptions. They work in a variety of settings, including privately or corporately owned pharmacies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and others.

How do you become a Pharmacist?

Students take pre-requisite undergraduate coursework and the PCAT for admission. Doctor of Pharmacy programs are typically four years. Some Pharm.D. programs require a bachelors degree but some do not. After graduating from a Pharm.D. program, prospective pharmacists must pass licensing exams and do internship hours.

What is required to go to Pharmacy school?

These are the Truman equivalent of the general requirements to go to Pharmacy school:

- BIOL 107 & 108
- BIOL 304
- BIOL 365/365L or BIOL 214 & 215
- CHEM 130 & 131
- CHEM 329 & 331, 330/332 or 333
- STAT 190
- MATH 198
- PHYS 185 or 195
- ENG 190
- COMM 170

Pharmacy schools have varying requirements, so interested students should check with the school(s) they are interested in.

Where can I find more information?

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ([AACCP](#)).
- American Pharmacists Association ([APhA](#)).
- The Pre-Pharmacy Club at Truman meets on Thursdays, bi-weekly, at 7pm in MG 2007. Contact bse1161@truman.edu for more information.



- * Pre-Athletic Training
- * Pre-Chiropractic
- * Pre-Dental
- * Pre-Medical
- * Pre-Occupational Therapy
- * Pre-Optometry
- * Pre-Pharmacy
- * Pre-Physical Therapy
- * Pre-Physician Assistant
- * Pre-Veterinary

Inside this issue

Spotlight.....	1
Winter Break.....	2
Personal Statement.....	3
Did You Know?.....	4



↑ Click on the button to navigate to our page! ↑

Winter Break

Here are some local resources for winter or summer break (it's not too early!):

Going home to St. Louis area?

- [World Pediatric Project \(STL\)](#)
- [St. Louis Children's Hospital](#)
- [St. Louis University Hospital](#)
- [Mercy Volunteer Services — STL](#)
- [St. Luke's Hospital](#)
- [Missouri Baptist Medical Center — STL](#)
- [Give Kids a Smile](#)

Going home to Kansas City area?

- [Children's Mercy](#) (Registration for Summer 2018 will open in January 2018)
- [KC CARE Clinic](#)
- [St. Luke's Health System](#)
- [St. Joseph Medical Center — KC](#)
- [VA Medical Center](#)

Going home to somewhere else?

- Your best chance of getting shadowing or volunteering hours starts with people you know. Do you know any health professionals personally? Do you know of a health professional through a friend or family member? Start there.
- If you do not have any connections to health professionals, most hospitals or medical centers have a volunteer coordinator (or similar person). You can use the internet or call the hospital/medical center directly and ask to speak with the person in charge of volunteering and shadowing.
- Consider other non-profit centers as well. More often than not, there are health clinics in your area that employs a variety of health professionals.

Personal Statement Ideas

Now that you have a draft of your personal statement...

Edit:

1. Make sure that your personal statement meets the character limits for the application service (you can check the application service website for more specifics)
2. Proofread, proofread, proofread. There should not be ANY grammatical, punctuation, or spelling errors.
3. Have at least 3 other people read through your personal statement. The more the merrier.

Revise:

1. Be authentic. Admissions committees know when you are just trying to get into the school versus when you have a real understanding of the profession and commitment to your community.
2. Make an argument that proves your readiness for your future career as a health professional.
3. Reveal something new about yourself that is not apparent from the rest of your application. Your personal statement should provide insight.
4. Address any challenges or obstacles that have influenced your education and path to health profession school, including any issues with your academic record (if it's not addressed elsewhere in your application)
5. Make sure you have some specific examples and/or anecdotes to support what you are saying in your personal statement. Do not use names of patients. HIPAA is important and admissions committees want to know that you understand legal obligations of health professionals.
6. If you have a "catchy hook" or are struggling to come up with one, forget it. Most "catchy hooks" are not good starters for personal statements. They come off as fake/phony, and it's not a good first impression for admissions committees.

Did You Know?

We have overviews of all pre-health professions requirements & ideas on shadowing, volunteering, & research in Kirksville.

Visit <http://excellence.truman.edu/advising/pre-health-professions/> for more information!

We have a table with great information regarding pre-health professions, schools, admissions tests, and other pertinent information. We have test prep materials available for checkout.

The information table is located in the Kirk Building hallway, outside of the freshmen academic advising office (Kirk Building 107). To check out materials, contact [Brittany Harden](#) or make an appointment to meet with her.

We have an archive of all of the previous newsletters.

Click [here](#) for more information!

We have an MCAT/Health Admissions Test Prep Course.

The course is currently titled INDV 320: MCAT/Med School Success Seminar — it is open to all students who will be taking an admission test for a health professions school (MCAT, DAT, OAT, etc.). If you have questions regarding this course, please contact [Brittany Harden](#).



Brittany A. Harden

Pre-Health Professions
Coordinator
& Academic Advisor
Truman State University
Kirk Building 107
660-785-7403
bharden@truman.edu

.....

For more information:
[Pre-Health Professions at Truman](#)

Meet with a pre-health advisor or the pre-health coordinator:

If you are in your second year at Truman AND majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science, or Health Science:

- You should meet with the designated pre-health advisor in your major. Depending on the department, some major advisors have a specific pre-health profession and some are versed in multiple pre-health professions.

If you are a first-year student OR a first-semester transfer OR are majoring in anything **other** than Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science, or Health Science:

- You should meet with Brittany Harden to help guide your preparation for health professions school. You may call 660-785-7403 or stop by the advising reception desk in Kirk Building 107 (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm) to make an appointment.