

PRE-PHARMACY PROGRAM AT Texas State University – San Marcos

There are eight Colleges of Pharmacy in the state of Texas; the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Houston, Texas Southern University in Houston, the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy in Amarillo, Texas A&M Health Science Center in Kingsville, the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, and the University of Texas at Tyler. Other colleges and universities in the state support these schools by providing the courses required for admission into the pharmacy schools. This pre-pharmacy work requires at least two years to complete and is heavily weighted in the sciences. Completion of the required courses is no guarantee of acceptance by the pharmacy schools. Typically, there are approximately eight to ten applicants for each position; preliminary screening is based primarily on the GPA in the pre-pharmacy coursework. As an example, the average GPA of the entering classes at the University of Texas has been over 3.60 for the courses required for admission. It is imperative the students enter the pre-pharmacy program with discipline and dedication as well as ability if they are to be successful.

A high grade point average is a necessary but not sufficient condition for admission. Pharmacy schools also consider the student's score on the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test), information in the applicant's Personal Statement (a part of the application), letters of recommendation, knowledge of pharmacy practice, extracurricular activities, and a personal interview. Successful candidates must demonstrate an ability to interact with people and a background of involvement in worthwhile activities.

Once accepted into the College of Pharmacy, the student faces four years of courses, laboratories, practicums, and internships which lead to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. The state licensing exam must be passed before a graduate is licensed as a pharmacist.

On the following page, the specific Texas State University courses required for admission into each school are given. Notice that requirements are quite similar and it is recommended that students take courses necessary to qualify for more than one school to increase chances for acceptance.

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