

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD)



School of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ADMISSIONS PLANNING GUIDE

ADMIT TERM: FALL 2026






TABLE OF CONTENTS

05

PHARMD
PREREQUISITE
COURSES

06

ADMISSIONS
SELECTION
CRITERIA

08

APPLICATION
PROCESS

10

APPLICATION
DEADLINES,
ADMISSION TIMELINE

11

SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION

12

DECISIONS

13

ADMISSION
OFFERS &
DEPOSIT

14

ADMISSIONS
STATISTICS

15

CONTACT
INFORMATION &
RESOURCES



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, located in Madison, Wisconsin, has been a world-class leader in pharmacy education, research, and service for more than a century. Established in 1883, it was the first School of Pharmacy to offer a baccalaureate degree in pharmacy. It was also the nation's first to award doctoral degrees in pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmaceuticals, the history of pharmacy, social studies of pharmacy, and continuing education.

Our School of Pharmacy is a small community with the benefits of a large university. We are located in Rennebohm Hall and are a member of the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC). The HSLC provides an integrated learning environment where students have access to healthcare professionals and a network of hospitals (UW Hospital & Clinics, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, and American Family Children's Hospital). The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy is consistently ranked in the top 10 by U.S. News and World Report.

Students who pursue our four-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree will learn from outstanding and award-winning faculty. Our experiential learning program offers more than 1,500 available rotations, including international rotations, reflecting the variety of interests, specialties, and career pathways in pharmacy.

In addition, our PharmD students have the opportunity to [customize](#) their coursework through the Scholars in Pharmacy (SIP) office by pursuing a:

- Pharmacy Operations Technology and Management (OTM) Named Option through our partnership with the Wisconsin School of Business
- Rural Health Named Option
- PharmD/MPH dual degree
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences Residency Track (APPE-RT)
- Path of Distinction in Antimicrobial Stewardship, Applied Drug Development, Interprofessional Practice and Education, Psychiatric Pharmacy, or Research
- 4 Certificate Options

Visit the [Scholars in Pharmacy](#) page for full details.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The University of Wisconsin-Madison was founded in 1848 and is located on 938 beautiful acres in the heart of Madison. For over 175 years, this campus has been a catalyst for the extraordinary. As a public land-grant university and major research institution, our students and faculty members partake in a well-rounded, world-class education and solve real-world problems. UW-Madison's education prepares you not only for a better career, but also to be a better citizen. Wherever you are on your academic journey, a community of more than 400,000 Badgers around the world is waiting for you.





THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY PROGRAM (PHARM D)

The PharmD program is a full-time, four-year professional degree program that is designed to prepare students for a successful career in the ever-changing world of health care. If you want a PharmD that offers academic excellence and practical patient-centered clinical training, then you belong at UW–Madison. All students applying to the Doctor of Pharmacy program must complete our prerequisite courses, which typically take 2-3 years. Students begin to apply their knowledge and gain skills in real pharmacy settings during the first year of the program through our Experiential Education Program, known as [Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences \(IPPE\)](#).

The UW–Madison PharmD program is designed to prepare the next generation of pharmacy leaders. As the health care landscape transforms, our [time-tested curriculum](#) evolves with it, so you'll leave our program with the knowledge and skills employers need.

Within the four-year curriculum, coursework blends foundational knowledge from biomedical, pharmaceutical, and clinical sciences approaches. Students master pharmacy concepts and knowledge with particular emphasis on laboratory methods, experiential learning, and career development.

Be at the forefront of personalized medicine and the latest pharmaceutical breakthroughs at one of the best research universities. Our graduates are pharmacists trained as scientists and clinicians who are ready to make a better world for patients and improve people's health.

PHARM D PREREQUISITE COURSES



School of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

PREREQUISITE COURSES

Prerequisites do not need to be completed to apply, but must be complete before you begin the PharmD program in the Fall. We accept summer coursework as well. The prerequisites can be completed at any regionally accredited college or university.

PREREQUISITE	REQUIREMENT
Calculus	1 course
General Chemistry I & II	2 courses and labs
Organic Chemistry I & II	2 courses and labs
General Biology I & General Biology II or Advanced Biology	2 courses and labs Advanced Biology lab is preferred, but not required
Microbiology	1 course
Human or Comparative Physiology	1 course
General Physics	1 course
Statistics	1 course
English Composition or Written Communication	1 course or U.S. bachelor's degree
General Elective Coursework in Social Science, Communication, Humanities, Foreign Language, or Diversity Studies	4 courses (12 credits minimum) or U.S. bachelor's degree
Additional Elective Coursework	72 total credits

See our website for additional [prerequisite policies](#).



SELECTION CRITERIA

The PharmD Admissions Committee carefully considers five selection criteria in the evaluation of all applicants. These criteria allow the Committee to use a holistic approach in reviewing applicants, which gives more dimension and breadth to the applicant review process. Applicants should do their best to address the selection criteria in their application, essays, letters of recommendation, and interview.

Academic Achievement »

1

Applicants should establish a strong academic record. We encourage applicants to aim for grades of B or better in math and science coursework. Grades from repeated courses will be averaged with all other coursework, meaning that the repeated grade does not replace the original grade earned in the course.

There is no minimum GPA requirement. The GPA range for the most recent entering class was 2.9 – 4.0, while the average GPA was a 3.6. An applicant's cumulative GPA includes all post-secondary courses. The Admissions Committee will also review GPA for math and science courses, and GPA in each academic year.

Applicants are encouraged to enroll in a full-time course schedule, if possible, to demonstrate preparedness for the PharmD program. As part of the holistic review, the Admissions Committee will also consider grade trends, combination of courses taken per semester, total credit load, and other individual circumstances impacting academic history.

Communication Skills »

2

Pharmacists interact daily with a broad range of patients and healthcare professionals. As a result, applicants to the PharmD program must demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills.

Application essays, recommendation letters, and an interview are used to assess each applicant's communication skills.

Commitment to Serving all Patient Populations »

3

Applicants are encouraged to share their personal experiences, aptitude, and commitment to becoming good global citizens. Students must be able to work alongside and serve all patient populations. Examples you can use to illustrate your commitment to being a good global citizen and an inclusive healthcare provider include:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Cultural awareness
- Ethical responsibility to self and others
- Empathy and compassion
- Resilience and adaptability
- Teamwork and collaboration



Experiences »

4

Service is the cornerstone of professional life for pharmacists, and applicants should demonstrate a commitment to helping others, collaboration, leadership, and a sincere willingness to learn from others through experiences and activities. Applicants should be prepared to explain how these experiences have helped them develop specific skills and/or grow as individuals. These experiences can include, but are not limited to:

- Community service
- Extracurricular activities
- Experience in healthcare
- Leadership experience
- Research experience
- Volunteer activities
- Work experience

Interest and Understanding of the Pharmacy Profession »

5

The Admissions Committee is interested in what motivates an applicant to pursue a career in pharmacy. Applicants should have a foundational understanding of the pharmacy profession, career options, and how pharmacists interact with patients and the healthcare team. Applicants should also be able to articulate the development of their interest in pharmacy and how a PharmD degree would aid their career goals.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their motivation to pursue pharmacy along with their interest and understanding of the pharmacy profession in their PharmCAS personal essay, interview, and the experiences section of the PharmCAS application.

To gain this knowledge and understanding, applicants may want to consider completing one or more of the following:

- Talk to current pharmacy students, faculty, and staff
- Conduct an informational interview with a pharmacist
- Shadow a pharmacist
- Work as a pharmacy technician or in another healthcare role
- Join a pre-pharmacy club
- Take a pharmacy exploration course or healthcare course(s)
- Research the profession by reading articles and searching for resources online



HOW TO APPLY

Students can apply to the Doctor of Pharmacy program approximately one year before they enroll. The UW-Madison Doctor of Pharmacy program participates in rolling admissions. We review applications as they are completed and verified by PharmCAS, filling seats in the class throughout the application cycle. For more information, please visit our [admissions process webpage](#).

Application Deadline for Fall 2026 Admission:

- Priority Application Deadline: November 3, 2025
- Final Application Deadline: March 2, 2026

All the materials listed below must be submitted by the application deadline.

PharmCAS Application:

1

The PharmCAS application opens mid-July prior to the year in which you are seeking admission. The PharmCAS personal essay cannot exceed 4,500 characters, including spaces (this is about one page). All official college transcripts and letters of recommendation should be sent to PharmCAS. PharmCAS can take up to two weeks to verify your application. Your PharmCAS application must be complete and verified in order for the Committee to consider inviting you to an interview.

www.PharmCAS.org

2

Official College Transcripts:

All official college transcripts are required and must be sent to PharmCAS. Transcripts sent to the University of Wisconsin during the application period will not be accepted. If post secondary coursework was completed outside of the U.S. or Canada, a World Educational Services (WES) transcript evaluation is required and must be sent to PharmCAS.



Letters of Recommendation:

3

Two letters of recommendation are required. All applicants must use PharmCAS recommendation forms and should designate their evaluators as part of their PharmCAS application. Choose a recommender who knows your character, work ethic, interest in pharmacy, and things about you that aren't apparent on your application.

- One of the two letters must be from a college-level instructor (professor, lecturer, teaching assistant). A letter from a science instructor is preferred.
- The second letter should be from a reference who knows you professionally such as a work or volunteer supervisor, pharmacist, professor, lecturer, teaching/research assistant, or academic advisor. We will not accept letters from a politician, friend, family member, or coworker of equal standing.

International applicants and non-native speakers are required to submit additional materials with their application, if applicable. Depending on your academic history and native language, you may have to submit certain documents and complete additional prerequisite coursework. Accepted international applicants will be required to submit funding documents prior to requesting your F-1 Visa.



APPLICATION DEADLINES, ADMISSION TIMELINE



School of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

We encourage applicants to apply early as UW-Madison School of Pharmacy participates in rolling admissions. PharmCAS can take up to two weeks to verify complete applications. We are not able to consider inviting you to an interview until your PharmCAS application is verified, and all other required application materials are received.

BENEFITS OF APPLYING BY THE PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE (NOVEMBER 3, 2025):

- Priority in scholarship offers
- Guaranteed interview for applicants who have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher
- Benefit of knowing your admission decision sooner
- We participate in rolling admissions and the class can fill as the final application deadline approaches

Priority applicants must complete the required admission interview by December 8, 2025 to take advantage of the priority deadline benefits.

Priority Application Deadline: November 3, 2025

Final Application Deadline: March 2, 2026

July 10, 2025

PharmCAS Application Opens

September 2025 - March 2026

Admissions Interview (invitation-only interviews, in which selected applicants are invited to interview)

October 2025 - April 2026

Applicants will be notified of admissions status via email

November 3, 2025

Priority Application Deadline for Fall 2026 Admission

March 2, 2026

Final Application Deadline for Fall 2026 Admission





Last year, the School of Pharmacy awarded over \$2 million to help cover the cost of education with over half of our student body obtaining a scholarship.

All admitted students are considered for scholarships using submitted application materials to determine scholarship eligibility. Applicants with financial need are encouraged to complete the optional scholarship essay, which is located in the Programs Materials section of the PharmCAS application. Types of scholarships offered include:

- Resident & Nonresident Merit Scholarships
- Need-Based Scholarships
- Advanced Opportunity Fellowships

INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATION: OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2025

Applicants who apply by November 3, 2025 will receive priority in scholarship offers.

Applicants who apply and interview after the priority application deadline are still eligible for available scholarships. Please contact the PharmD Admissions Office if you have any questions at apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu.

ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

After your interview, the Admissions Committee will complete another full review of your application and interview. You will receive one of the following admission decisions approximately 2 weeks after your interview:

1

Admitted

Congratulations! We hope that you will accept the offer of admission and join our program! We typically ask students to accept or decline the offer of admission within two weeks of receiving the offer.

2

Deferred Decision

The Admissions Committee was not able to make a final admissions decision on your application. They will continue to review your application throughout the admissions process.

3

Wait List

The PharmD Admissions Committee has completed a full and extensive review of your application. At this time, our class is full, and you have been placed on the wait list. We will begin to accept students from the wait list as space in the class becomes available from now until August.

4

Denied Admission

The Admissions Committee completed a full and extensive review of your application, and we are not able to offer you admission into the PharmD program. The Admissions Committee appreciates the hard work, care, and interest you have shown and wish you success in your future endeavors.





ADMISSIONS OFFER & DEPOSIT TIMEFRAMES

Before March 1:

- The University of Wisconsin–Madison Doctor of Pharmacy program requires a \$200 deposit when an applicant accepts the offer of admission. This \$200 deposit is due within two weeks of receiving an offer of admission.
- Applicants may choose to accept multiple admission offers.

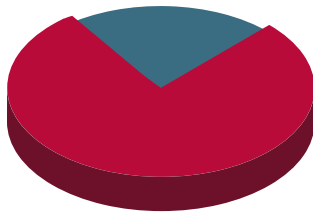
After March 1:

- An additional \$300 deposit is required.
- Students who are admitted into the PharmD program after March 1, will be required to pay the total \$500 deposit when the applicant accepts the offer of admission.
- Because we participate in AACP’s Cooperative Admission Guidelines, applicants may hold only one acceptance. Participating schools and colleges may choose to rescind offers to applicants holding multiple acceptances.



PHARMD ADMISSION STATISTICS

WI Residents & Non Residents



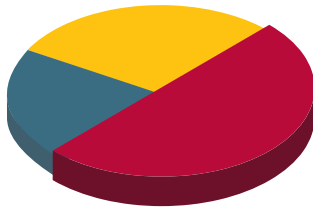
64%

Wisconsin Residents

36%

Non Residents

Where Students Complete Prerequisite Coursework



53%

UW-Madison

16%

Universities of Wisconsin

31%

Other Universities

Most Recent Accepted Class

as of May 1, 2025

- ✓ Cumulative GPA: 3.6
- ✓ GPA Range: 2.9–4.0
- ✓ Average Science GPA: 3.5
- ✓ First Generation College Students: 16%
- ✓ States and U.S. Territories: AZ, CA, FL, IA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MN, MT, ND, OH, PA, WI, and WY
- ✓ Country of Birth: Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Czechia, Italy, Korea, Puerto Rico, The Gambia, Uganda, and United States.
- ✓ Students of Color: 27%



CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



School of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

PHARMD ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

For general admissions questions or to set up an appointment, please contact apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu or 608-262-6234.

ADMISSIONS TEAM

- Jeremy Altschaf, MA, Assistant Dean of PharmD Admissions
- Jannelle Frey, MS, PharmD Admissions Manager

apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu
608-262-6234

MEET WITH US

- If you would like to [schedule an appointment](#) with an admissions advisor (virtual, in-person, or phone), please contact 608-262-6234 or apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu
- Attend a Prospective Student Event: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/pharmd/events/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS

- Basic Needs Student Support: <https://basicneeds.students.wisc.edu/>
- Campus Map: <https://www.map.wisc.edu/>
- City of Madison Biking: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison/>
- Estimated Cost of Attendance: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/>
- Financial Aid: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>
- Gender & Sexuality Campus Center: <https://lgbt.wisc.edu/>

- Housing Resources:
 - Campus Area Housing - <https://campusareahousing.wisc.edu/>
 - University Graduate & Family Housing - <https://www.housing.wisc.edu/apartments/>
- International Student Services (ISS): iss.wisc.edu
- Madison Metro: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro>
- McBurney Disability Resource Center: <https://mcburney.wisc.edu/>
- Multicultural Student Center (MSC): <https://msc.wisc.edu/>
- PharmCAS: <http://www.pharmcas.org/>
- Popular Campus Destinations: <https://info.wisc.edu/destinations>
- Recreation & Wellbeing: <https://recwell.wisc.edu/>
- School of Pharmacy Student Life: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/student-life/>
- Student Jobs: <https://studentjobs.wisc.edu/>
- Student Life: <https://www.wisc.edu/student-life/>
- Pharmacy Student Organizations: <https://students.pharmacy.wisc.edu/student-life/student-organizations/>
- University Health Services (UHS): www.uhs.wisc.edu
- University Veteran Services: <https://veterans.wisc.edu/>
- UW-Madison Scholars in Pharmacy: <https://students.pharmacy.wisc.edu/scholars-in-pharmacy/>
- Visit Downtown Madison: <https://visitdowntownmadison.com>
- Wisconsin Athletics: <https://uwbadgers.com>