

Pharmacy School FAQs

Q: What should I major in?

A: Honestly, it doesn't matter. You should major in whatever subject interests you. There is no general, pre-pharmacy major offered at Texas A&M. Majors like Health, Nutrition, Psychology, and Biomedical Science are the most common for applicants because the prerequisite courses are included in your degree plan. A non-science major does not put you at a disadvantage. You will have to work with your academic advisor to incorporate some of the prerequisite classes into your schedule, but a non-science major can make you look unique. No one major looks more competitive than another major. Know that your GPA in the prerequisite and science courses is particularly important as that is what schools will use to compare between applicants of all majors.

Q: Can I take a course at a community college?

A: Yes, taking a class at community college is acceptable. Know that while the grade earned at a community college does not count on your TAMU transcript, the grade earned will be calculated into your GPA when you apply. So any course you take at community college will count towards your GPA. Use this to your advantage and get A's in any courses you take at community college to help raise your GPA.

Q: I made a 3/4/5 on my AP test. Should I accept the credit?

A: Accepting AP credit can be beneficial. Talk to your academic advisor before accepting any AP credit. You want to make sure the credit you are accepting counts towards your degree. Note that once you accept AP credit, you cannot un-accept it so make sure you meet with your academic advisor and fully discuss this. Accepting AP credit will not detract from a pharmacy school application.

Q: I used freshman grade exclusion to exclude a grade on my TAMU transcript. Will the professional schools that I apply to be able to see it?

A: While freshman grade exclusion can help your TAMU GPA, the class is still recorded on your transcript, which means that the professional schools will be able to see it. While the class will not affect your TAMU GPA, professional schools consider all classes taken when looking at your grades, meaning they will calculate in the excluded grade. If this grade is in a science course, this could be particularly important.

Q: When should I take the PCAT?

A: You should take the PCAT during the application process of pharmacy school. Take the PCAT between January and September of the year you are applying. This is commonly the spring semester of your junior year through the fall of your senior year (if you are looking to matriculate to pharmacy school directly after graduation from TAMU).

Refer to [the official PCAT website](#) for more information.

Q: What do pharmacy school application committees consider other than my GPA when I apply?

A: For a competitive application, a high GPA and PCAT score are required. Other than that, schools will look at pharmacy experience, community service, and leadership. A competitive resume will include work history, leadership skills demonstrated through on and off campus involvement, community service and involvement, and academic achievements and awards. Your application should paint a picture of you as an individual, highlighting your professional, academic, and personal qualities.

Q: How do I get shadowing hours?

A: Look into volunteer programs at local hospitals and clinics. Many students get jobs working in pharmacies at supermarkets and drug stores. Most jobs or volunteer opportunities for pre-pharmacy students require that you become a licensed pharmacy technician.

For more details on becoming a registered Pharmacy Technician, visit [this website](#).

Q: What scholarship opportunities are available for pre-pharmacy students at Texas A&M?

Click [here](#) for the OPSA scholarship page.