



## Pharmacy School FAQs

### Academics

#### **Q: What should I major in to make me the most competitive applicant?**

A: Pharmacy schools do not have a preference for one major over another and want students to choose a major they enjoy. The thought behind this is students will do better in a major they enjoy, have a higher GPA, and have something to fall back on if they ultimately decide not to pursue the health professions. Most students choose a major, which covers a lot of the prerequisite courses or gives elective flexibility, which allows students to choose prerequisite courses to fill them. The most common majors for Pre-pharm students are Nutrition, Biology, and Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) since many of the prerequisite courses (found [here](#)) are included in your degree plan. If you want to attend UNTHSC COP or UT Tyler Fisch COP and plan to major in BIMS, then it is important to note that those pharmacy schools currently require A&P and will not accept BIMS A&P. Pharmacy schools don't require a bachelor's degree, but some prefer you have one, so BA vs BS is a personal preference as well. 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.

\*Note a non-science major does not put you at a competitive disadvantage. You will just have to work with your academic advisor to incorporate some of the prerequisite classes into your degree plan.

#### **Q: Can I take a course at a community/junior college?**

A: Yes, taking a class at community college is acceptable. While the grade earned at a community college does not count on your TAMU transcript, the grade earned will be calculated into your [GPAs](#) when you apply to Pharmacy school. Use this to your advantage and get A's in any courses you take at community college to help raise your overall GPA.

\*Note before enrolling in a community college course, check [here](#) to make sure the course has a transfer course equivalency at Texas A&M AND check with your academic advisor, if you plan to use the credit at Texas A&M. For the course to count as a pharmacy school prerequisite, you must also check whether the number is on the pharmacy school's website BEFORE you take the course.

#### **Q: Do pharmacy schools accept AP/IB/dual credit?**

A: This is a two-part question because AP/IB and dual credit are two different things. Dual credit is college credit and is treated like community/junior college credit, so you do not have the option to accept it or not. You must submit transcripts for dual credit coursework, when applying to pharmacy school. Most pharmacy schools accept AP/IB credit, but review the website and FAQs, BEFORE you accept them. Also, speak with your academic advisor BEFORE accepting any credit for any course. You want to make sure that the credit you are accepting counts towards your degree.

\*Note that once you accept credit for a course, you cannot un-accept it so make sure you meet with your academic advisor and fully discuss this.

#### **Q: Will Q-dropping a course hurt my chances of getting into pharmacy school?**

A: We cannot say how one course will affect you getting into pharmacy school or how competitive it will be, when you apply. Application committees will look at your grades as well as other factors

found on [tx.ag/wdintbwo](http://tx.ag/wdintbwo). If there is any chance you could make a D or lower in the course, then you want to drop the course. Reflect on what happened this semester, give yourself grace and sign-up to retake the course. If you are trying to decide, visit [here](#) to see more information and to find the GPA calculator PharmCAS will use. You can review the instruction tab within the GPA calculator for more detailed information. Type in all of the courses you have taken at the college level, so you can see where you stand. If you continue with the course, make a C and retake it, the C will get calculated into the overall GPA, some schools will take the higher grade in the science GPA, but it depends on the school PharmCAS calculates several GPAs by taking the quality points divided by your attempted credits to determine your GPA. If you think you may retake it anyway, then dropping it now may be the best choice. The Pre-pharmacy advisor is here to discuss your options, if you are on the fence. Don't wait until the week of Q-drop deadline to reach out. Also, speak with your academic advisor about how this will affect your academic progress toward graduation.

### **Applying to Pharmacy School/PharmCAS**

#### **Q: How can I sign up for an application or personal statement workshop?**

A: All workshops that are hosted by OPSA advisors are available for online registration at [tx.ag/opsaworkshops](http://tx.ag/opsaworkshops). Registration for these events is usually available about a month before the workshop date and closes 24 hours before the start of the workshop or once registration is full.

#### **Q: What do pharmacy school application committees consider?**

A: Pharmacy schools review the PharmCAS and supplemental applications holistically as soon as they are received from PharmCAS. They are looking at each applicant's overall and prerequisite GPAs, community service, work/pharmacy experience, leadership (see [tx.ag/wdintbwo](http://tx.ag/wdintbwo) for more information), a strong personal statement about why an applicant wants to be a pharmacist that is run through TurnItIn.com for plagiarism, and letters of recommendations from Texas A&M math and science professors that include a letter as well as rate each applicant on the following: adaptability, empathy, ethics, intellectual ability, interpersonal relations, judgment, leadership, oral communication, reliability, and written communication. This information helps them decide whether they want to bring an applicant in for an interview.

\*Note a competitive application will include work history, leadership skills demonstrated through on and off campus involvement, community service and involvement, and academic achievements and awards.

#### **Q: How do I get shadowing hours/learn more about pharmacy?**

A: Some ways to find shadowing opportunities is to approach pharmacies at supermarkets and drugstores. You may also visit [Pharmacyforme.org](http://Pharmacyforme.org) where you can learn about the various areas and read interview blogs with pharmacists. Join [Pre-Pharmacy Society](#) to network with other pre-pharm students, pharmacy students, and pharmacists, as well as be introduced to opportunities such as shadowing, mentoring, and jobs. We also recommend you use Google to find local pharmacies/hospitals to call/visit, resources on our [WDINTBWO](#) handout, such as, [Find An Aggie](#) or the [volunteer handout](#) to find a pharmacy/hospital that suits your needs and interests. We like to remind students to be professional and respectful of pharmacy/hospital site policies when contacting. This will include inquiring about dress code, vaccine requirements, and if the site has any additional volunteer requirements.

\*Note many jobs or volunteer opportunities for pre-pharmacy students require that you obtain at least a 'trainee' license or become a licensed pharmacy technician, but there are some on-campus jobs that don't. For more details on becoming a registered Pharmacy Technician, visit [this website](#).

## **Financial Aid**

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

A: Search scholarships through [A&M's Scholarships & Financial Aid](#), subscribe to the Pre-Pharmacy listserv at [tx.ag/opsalistsevs](http://tx.ag/opsalistsevs) as we share information through the listservs that we are made aware of, search for other opportunities and speak with pharmacy schools you are interested in to see how financial aid works at their school. If you are eligible to sign-up for FAFSA, then you want to sign-up, even if you didn't receive financial aid for undergrad.

## **Texas A&M College of Pharmacy-Rangel**

### **Q: Where is the pharmacy school located?**

A: Learn about our two locations [here](#).

### **Q: Does the Rangel Pharmacy School prefer applicants from Texas A&M?**

A: No, the pharmacy school does not show preference to applicants from Texas A&M. Rangel Pharmacy is always looking for intelligent, compassionate, and capable applicants. An education at Texas A&M is a great foundation for a competitive PharmCAS application. TAMU's strong academic reputation and emphasis on selfless service provide opportunities for you to excel as an applicant. Click [here](#) for you to learn more about Rangel's most recent graduating class.

### **Q: What is Aggie ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E and how do I apply?**

A: ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E: Aggie Student Pharmacists Initiative for Recruitment/Retention and Education  
The aim of the ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E programs is to prepare and support students to become Aggie Pharmacists.

There are four tracks to ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E: Tracks 1 and 2 will help undergraduate pre-pharmacy students ultimately become a competitive pharmacy school applicant Tracks 3 and 4 will help admitted Rangel College of Pharmacy students successfully transition to the rigors of the PharmD education and become a competent practicing pharmacist

Read more about the tracks and how to apply [here](#).

### **Professional School Advising**

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