

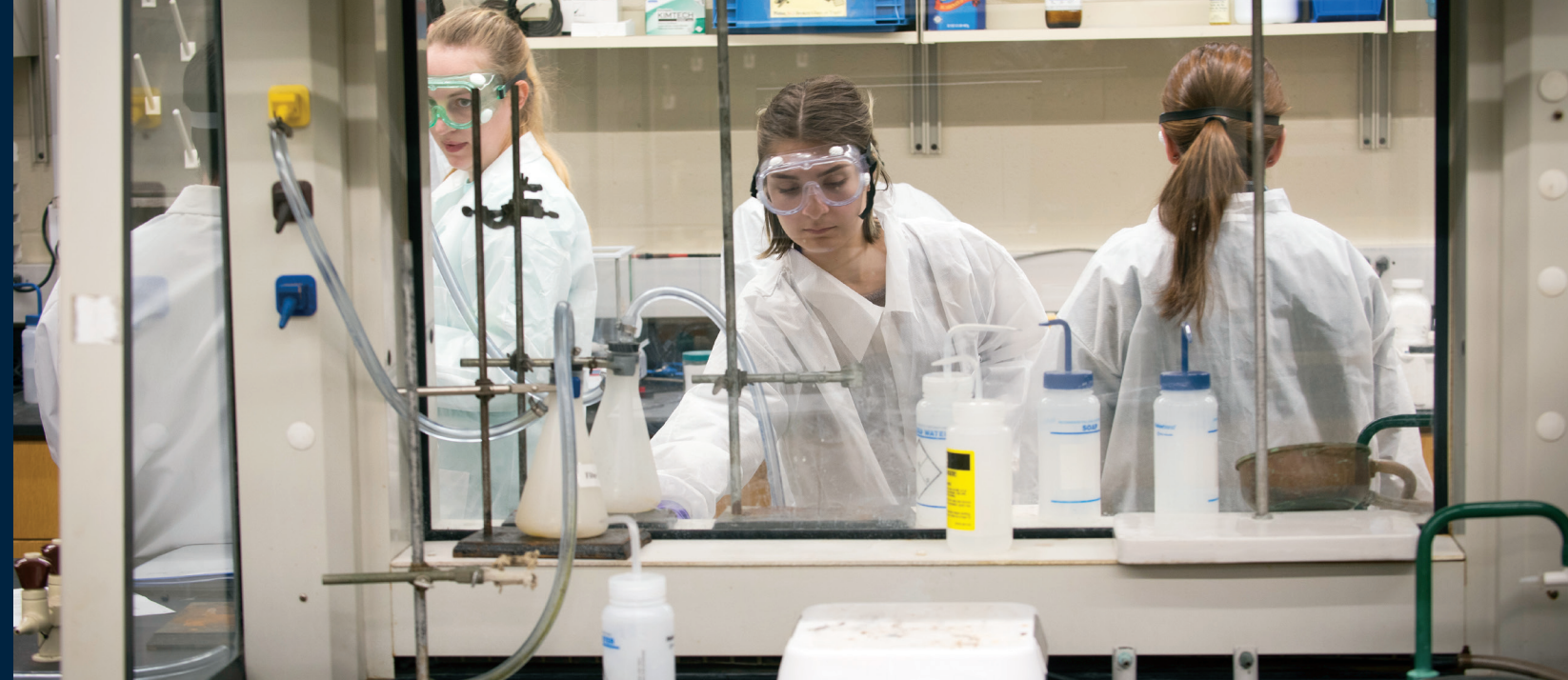


Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Professional Program

Admission Information and Plan of Study

A career in pharmacy is innovative and exciting, with new roles and opportunities emerging as our health care system evolves to meet the changing needs of patients. In addition to critical roles in community pharmacies and hospitals, Pharm.D. graduates today secure careers in all areas of public and private health care and medical research.

► All pharmacy students are assigned staff and/or faculty advisors who provide support and counsel along the path to the Pharm.D. degree.



The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Professional Program at UConn

Train to become a licensed pharmacist. The Pharm.D. degree is a professional degree like the JD earned by an attorney or the MD earned by a doctor. Students typically complete common curriculum and Pre-Professional foundation coursework in their freshman and sophomore years and apply to enter the School of Pharmacy's professional program during the second semester of their sophomore year. Students then transition to professional coursework (junior year) and earn a BS in Pharmacy Studies after the equivalent of senior year.

The semester immediately following the completion of the BS degree, students complete two additional years of upper-level coursework and engage in experiential rotations across the entire spectrum of pharmacy careers before earning their Pharm.D. degree.

Careers after pharmacy school include:

- Hospital (clinical specialty areas: pediatrics, critical care, emergency medicine, cardiology, oncology, infectious disease, psychiatry, palliative medicine, pain management, specialty pharmacy)
- Community Practice (independent, chain, compounding, and veterinary pharmacy)
- Pharmaceutical Industry (medical affairs, regulatory affairs, medical science liaison, drug information, research and drug development)
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Academic Pharmacy
- Health Informatics
- Long-term, Hospice, and Home Health Consulting
- Government/Federal and State (FDA, NIH, Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection)
- Managed Care and Pharmacy Benefit Management
- Clinical Inspection Pharmacist
- Publishing/Medical Writing (medical, scientific and trade journal reporting)
- Poison Control

Please visit s.uconn.edu/pharmacy-careers for other opportunities.

► Students following academic tracks other than Pharmacy Studies may also apply to the School of Pharmacy, provided that they meet the requirements. Connect with the School of Pharmacy's administrative offices via email to pharmacy@uconn.edu to discuss your personal path.



Preparing To Be a Pharmacy Student

For those in high school

Take beneficial classes in high school such as upper-level science courses (i.e. chemistry, biology, physics, etc.), as well as pre-calculus and/or calculus.

In addition:

- Take three years of a single foreign language
- Incorporate classes that emphasize communication skills
- Consider taking AP and college cooperative classes (taken in high school) that fulfill UConn common curriculum requirements
- Get involved outside of the classroom to develop leadership and time-management skills
- Get pharmacy-related experience (not required) or hold a part-time job
- Participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, organizations, and clubs
- Connect with us about our shadowing program

For those already enrolled in college or for adult learners

Take required prerequisite courses. See proposed plan of study at advising.pharmacy.uconn.edu/academics/curriculum-maps.

In addition:

- Take advantage of on-campus support networks available to you (i.e. advising centers, on-campus tutoring, writing centers, etc.)
- Obtain pharmacy-related experience through part-time employment in a community and/or hospital pharmacy
- Shadow a local pharmacist
- Volunteer in humanitarian/health-related fields
- Arrange for summer internships at pharmaceutical companies
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Participate in pre-professional courses and living/learning communities



For Plan of Study Visit:

advising.pharmacy.uconn.edu/academics/curriculum-maps

Pharmacy Studies students can opt to join a pharmacy living-and-learning community, a small cluster of first-year resident students who live, study, and learn together. The students also have a first-year experience course that covers basic university learning skills, but with a focus on pharmacy. Current Pharm.D. students act as mentors. Learn more: lc.uconn.edu



Pharmacy Studies students often join pharmacy student organizations and co-ed fraternities. These programs help connect students to upper class pharmacy students and experiences and often provide motivation to excel during Pre-Professional years.





Application & Admission to the Pharm.D. Program

The UConn School of Pharmacy Pharm.D. program is a 0-6 program that guarantees Pre-Professional students a spot in the Professional (Pharm.D.) program provided they meet the necessary criteria*. Students who enter UConn as first-years in BS in Pharmacy Studies or major change into the program during the first semester of their first year are considered Pre-Professional.

To be guaranteed admission to the Professional program, Pre-Professional students must:

- Have a 3.0 or higher STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) prerequisite GPA at time of application and satisfactorily

- complete all prerequisites in progress at the same level of competency.
- Have no STEM prerequisite with a grade of D, F, W, or P and no repeated STEM prerequisites.
- Have no grades of D or F for any course taken at a higher education institution.
- Submit a satisfactory application via PharmCAS.
- Complete an interview.

*Applicants who do not meet all requirements are encouraged to still apply and will be considered on a competitive basis.

TIP: Our student ambassadors are available to talk or email. We have some who began as first-years and others who transferred in. Find them and connect at pharmacy.uconn.edu/ambassadors.

Transfers and students who make major changes after their first year, first semester are eligible to apply to the Pharm.D. program if the following criteria are met:

- Complete all required math, science, English, and social science prerequisites by the end of the spring semester for enrollment the following fall.
- Students who have not fulfilled the University of Connecticut common curriculum requirements before they enter the professional program will have to complete those courses by May of the second professional year. Summer course work may be considered. Please check that credits transfer prior to signing up for a course.

Visit pharmacy.uconn.edu for additional information.

Admission Policy

The School of Pharmacy is a participating member of PharmCAS, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACP) electronic application service. All applicants need to submit an application to UConn School of Pharmacy through the PharmCAS portal. We will consider:

- Cumulative grade point average in the math and science prerequisites
- Overall academic performance
- Non-academic experience, i.e. pharmacy, health care, etc.
- Recommendations and personal statement
- Personal interview (in person or online)



Communication Skills

Pharmacists must have excellent written and oral communication skills. Applicants for whom English is not a primary language or who do not otherwise qualify for a waiver of this requirement must submit a valid TOEFL or IELTS score. The minimum passing TOEFL scores are total score: 94; listening & speaking sections: 27; reading and writing sections: 20. The minimum passing IELTS scores are total score: 7.0 with no lower than 8.0 sub-scores in listening and speaking and no lower than 6.5 sub-scores in reading and writing. Applicants should visit pharmacy.uconn.edu for more information or contact us directly. The UConn American English Language Institute (UCAELI) is available to provide further development of English language skills. Visit ucaeli.uconn.edu for details.

Transfer Admissions to Pharm.D. Program

A transfer applicant is a student who is not currently enrolled at UConn and is seeking admission into the Pre-Professional or Pharm.D. Professional Program.

Restrictions and deadlines apply. Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog and School of Pharmacy website for current information. Please also see our transfer applicant brochure.

Tuition

UConn's Office of the Bursar lists complete in- and-out-of-state tuition and fees. Discounted New England rates are available to residents of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. New England tuition rates are available to first-year through senior-year students enrolled in Pharmacy Studies or the Pharm.D. program.



Pharm.D. Program Enrichment & Experiences

Honors & Undergraduate Research

The Honors Program is designed for highly motivated students who maintain a high GPA and cap off their research or scholarly interests by writing a thesis. A multitude of enrichment opportunities, research and travel scholarships, a Washington internship, and priority for dormitories on South Campus are available to Honors students. At graduation, Honors students are individually recognized

as Honors Scholars. Their transcripts and diplomas reflect this high honor.

Students may also participate in a research project without being in the Honors Program. Students wishing to conduct research need to identify a faculty research advisor who will supervise and guide the project. Students interested in a particular line of research should contact faculty members who share those interests and discuss the nature of the proposed project.

University Scholar Program

This prestigious program is for students who wish to pursue nontraditional programs of study of their own creation. The program can be an interdisciplinary mixture of courses from different units within the university, can lead to two degrees, can include graduate studies, and can be tailored to each individual. A three-person faculty committee supervises a University Scholar's program of study. In consultation with the student's committee and the associate dean, certain requirements may be waived. In addition, the University waives the general university fee for every University Scholar for the remainder of their program. Graduation as a University Scholar is the highest academic honor that the University of Connecticut bestows on undergraduate students.

Joint Pharm.D. Programs

Joint programs allow students to combine their Doctor of Pharmacy degree with select master's and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs. Application to these programs is made during the second professional [P2] year. The following programs are currently available:

➔ Introductory and advanced professional experiences give students the opportunity to learn on the job, supported by preceptors who maintain a guiding role.



Pharm.D./MPH

A joint Pharm.D./MPH program is offered to students who seek to combine pharmacy education with special skills in public health as it relates to pharmacotherapy and health promotion, disease prevention, and medication safety. Students apply for admission to the MPH program in the spring semester of their P2 year. Accepted students take MPH courses during their third year (after they complete the BS in Pharmacy Studies). Students return to the School of Pharmacy for the last two years of the Pharm.D. program, which consist of both pharmacy and public health courses. Both the Pharm.D. and the MPH will be conferred simultaneously after the program requirements have been successfully met.

Pharm.D./Ph.D. Program

The School of Pharmacy offers a joint Pharm.D./Ph.D. program. This program targets a small number of students who seek to combine pharmacy education suitable for professional licensure with advanced research-based training in the pharmaceutical sciences. Students completing this program will earn two consecutive degrees, the Pharm.D. and the Ph.D. A modified graduate curriculum will be tailored to shorten the total time required to complete both degrees. Students must meet the admission requirements of both programs and apply to the Ph.D. program in the spring semester of the P2 year as they complete the BS in Pharmacy Studies.

LEADERS Track

In the rapidly changing and highly competitive environment of pharmacy practice, the profession of pharmacy is seeking to identify the leaders of tomorrow. The School of Pharmacy strives to help identify and distinguish these leaders prior to graduation, preparing them to serve in leadership roles. The Pharmacy LEADERS Track is intended to expand the breadth and depth of a student’s education and experiences to develop the next generation of pharmacy leaders.

Pediatric Track

As the practice of clinical pharmacy becomes more competitive, the Pediatric Track is designed to provide the pharmacy student with tools to help them succeed as a pediatric clinical practitioner. It allows students interested in pediatric clinical pharmacy to have a multitude of pediatric experiences throughout their time as a pharmacy student and graduate as a Pediatric Pharmacy Scholar.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Track

The Pharmaceutical Sciences Track will provide pharmacy students with greater exposure to the pharmaceutical sciences and related research. The track is designed to help students who are considering working as a pharmacist for a pharmaceutical company or planning to pursue a joint Pharm.D./Ph.D. degree. This flexible track allows a wide range of options designed to fit each student’s goals and is designed for easy integration with existing science minors and the pharmacy honors program.

Urban Service Track

The Urban Service Track is a unique collaboration between UConn’s schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work; the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program; and the community. The main goal of the Urban Service Track is to develop a group of health care professionals dedicated to caring for Connecticut’s urban, underserved populations and practicing in interprofessional teams. Each year a group of students from the six professional schools are selected and admitted into the program. These urban health scholars work as a team to learn to solve challenges of health care in urban areas, including implementing community education and outreach programs, providing direct patient care in free clinics, promoting health literacy and cultural sensitivity, and participating in quality improvement initiatives and community-based research. In addition, urban health scholars participate in conferences focusing on health policy and advocacy activities affecting underserved populations.

Questions or want to visit? Please email **pharmacy@uconn.edu**.

▶ Ambassador students in each of the programs are available to discuss their experiences. Please email **pharmacy@uconn.edu**.

Post-Pharm.D. Licensure and Careers

After earning the Pharm.D. degree, graduates must pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) before becoming a licensed, practicing pharmacist. The NAPLEX is a national exam that has been developed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to assess the graduate’s ability to practice pharmacy.

In addition to national licensure, pharmacists need to be registered in the state in which they practice. Although every state varies in their requirements for registration, many states, like Connecticut, require the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®).

The MPJE combines federal and state-specific law questions to serve as the state law examination.

Visit the website **nabp.pharmacy** for your state’s requirements.



Specialization After a Pharm.D. degree

In addition to the many careers available to licensed pharmacists, many graduates continue their education by applying for a residency and/or fellowship. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) postgraduate training typically lasts 12 months or longer and leads to the specialization in an area of pharmacy practice. In 2023 the UConn School of Pharmacy had the highest match rate in New England and the sixth-highest in the nation at 93%.

By meeting academic and experiential qualifications outlined on the Board of Pharmacy Specialties website at **bpsweb.org**, Doctors of Pharmacy can become board certified in one of the following six specialty areas:

- Ambulatory Care: Integrate health care across community and family practice to maximize pharmacotherapy and outcomes
- Nuclear Pharmacy: Prepare, dispense, and consult on compound radioactive pharmaceuticals for diagnostic purposes
- Pharmacotherapy: Ensure the safe, economical, and appropriate use of drugs for patients
- Nutrition Support Pharmacy: Assist in consultations related to nutrition and medications for those with dietary needs
- Oncological Pharmacy: Assist with cancer therapy dosing, and education and care regarding side effects
- Psychiatric Pharmacy: Monitor medical and behavioral treatments as they relate to various mental health disorders



UConn complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Contact: Office of Institutional Equity; (860) 486-2943; equity@uconn.edu; equity.uconn.edu.

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UConn
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

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