Pacific Oregon University

2/2/24

Start time: 6:10 PM

End time: 7:00 PM

# 

# General Information

* Enrolls > 3,100 full-time students
* 2 campuses
  + **College of Health Professions**
    - Adjacent to MAX light rail public transportation
    - Health programs in: optometry, psychology, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dental hygiene, healthcare administration, etc
    - Located near hospital + respective clinics
  + Pacific University Undergraduate Campus
* Link to website: [pacificu.edu/pharmacy](https://www.pacificu.edu/academics/colleges/college-health-professions/school-pharmacy/pharmacy-degree-programs/pharmacy-pharmd)

# How to be Competitive for a Health Professions Program

1. **Academics**
   * **Pacific’s view**: can you be successful in the program?
   * Best indicator = past academics
     + GPA (Grade Point Averages)
       - Look at last 45 credits
     + Type of classes (did you challenge yourself?)
     + Load of classes
   * **Moving forward**
     + Research institutional minimum GPAs/prerequisites/entrance exams
       - NOTE: PCAT is no longer required
     + Raise GPA if needed
2. **Passion**
   * **Pacific’s view**: is this what the applicant wants?
     + Education is a large commitment
     + Does the applicant know what they’re getting into?
     + Do they have a passion for it?
   * **Moving forward**
     + Shadow/observe pharmacist if possible
     + Volunteer/work
       - 50% of entering class has pharmacy-related experience
     + Informational interviews
3. **Communication** 
   * **Pacific’s view**: can this person interact with patients?
     + Introduction to student via written + oral communication
   * **Moving forward**
     + Essay writing, get unbiased help
     + Practice interview skills
       - Look at interview prompt questions
       - Do mock interview sessions with an advisor

# Typical Admissions Criteria

* Strength of academic record
* Strength of letters of reference
  + Pharmacist is *recommended* (well + beyond for a letter of rec!)
  + Could also be from employer, professor, supervisor, etc
* Quality of writing ability as demonstrated in personal statement + supplemental application essays
* Prior health care experience

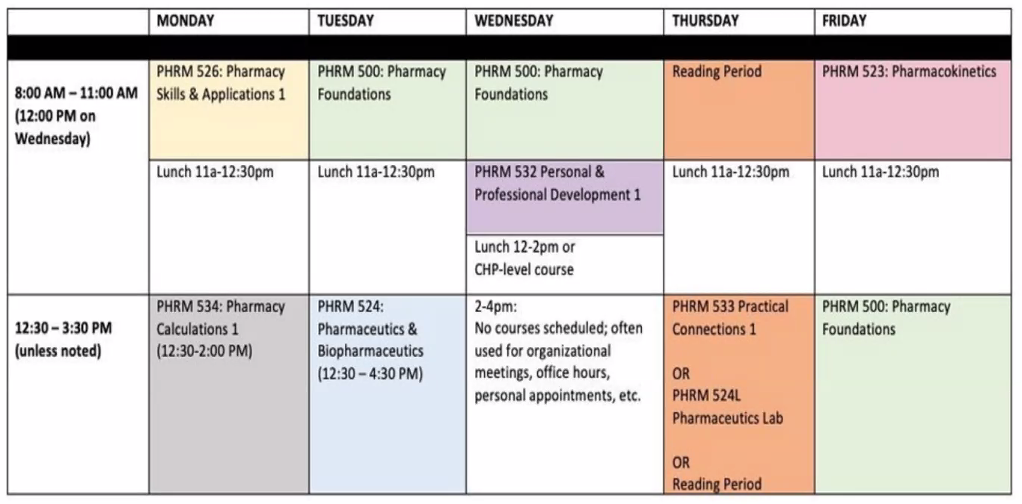
# Two Different Pathways to Earn PharmD Degree

* **3-Year Program** (accelerated pathway)
  + Accelerate study speed + intensity in year-round program
  + Earn PharmD faster one year than traditional PharmD programs
* **5-Year Program** (part-time pathway)
  + Classes aren’t every weekday of the week (only 2-3 days)
  + Allows students to have work-life balance while earning PharmD

# Pacific PharmD Stats

* 3-year accelerated or 5-year extended pathway
  + Final year = full time clinical experiences
* Tuition = ~$58,000 (3-year program), $38,000 (5-year program)
* Class size = 50-60 students
* No PCAT required
* Final PharmCAS deadline: July (start date is usually first week of August)

# Class Schedule for First-Year Pharmacy Student (3-Year Program)



# PharmD/MS Joint Degree

* **Four-year joint degree**
  + Combines 3-year PharmD curriculum with 1-year research-focused experience
    - Example courses: biochemistry, pharmacodynamics & pharmacokinetics interface, advanced topics in pharmaceutical sciences, scientific communciation
* For students interested in conducting original research on journey to becoming researcher-clinicians
  + Graduates have competitive advantage for pharmacy-focused career + training opportunities (in terms of academia, industry settings, residency programs)

# Pacific Culture and Fit

* **Open-door policy**
  + Classes are on one side of the hallway; faculty offices are on the other side
    - Easier to connect with faculty/professors!
* **Community driven**
  + Serving the underserved
    - Experiential education (in rural + urban settings)
  + Strongly encourage involvement in community service
  + Student orgs: health fairs, community events
    - Flu + vaccination clinics in parking structure
      * Patients can drive through to get vaccine
* **Student organizations**
  + Ambassadors club
  + Student senate
  + Class officers
  + Kappa Psi
  + Professional Student Senate (PSS)
    - All CHP programs represented in PSS

# Experiences of Current Pacific Pharmacy Students

* **Ashley Mosesman** (P1, 3-year program)
  + Faculty + students are really close → nice to have their support + mentorship
    - Meet twice a semester to follow up
  + Worked as pharm-tech while attending school
  + Why she chose Pacific
    - Always interested in getting masters in pharmaceutical sciences
    - Drawn to Portland area + 3-year program
* **Hoda Veshagh** (P2)
  + Why she chose pharmacy
    - Knew she wanted to be in healthcare field since she was young
    - Got opportunity to shadow family friend who owned an independent pharmacy overseas
      * Shadowed her for 3 years → fell in love with pharmacy
      * Attracted to communication aspect + mechanism of drugs
  + Why she chose Pacific
    - Introduced by a friend who was in the Pacific 3-year program
      * Learned about supportive + faculty community
    - Only applied to this school because she was set on going here
    - Was never able to connect to professors at her undergrad university
      * Pacific professors are very accessible & want to help you succeed
* **Jasmin Schaefer** (P1, 5-year program)
  + Why she chose pharmacy
    - Originally planned to go to pharmacy school straight out of undergrad
      * Recruited to PhD program at another university (got full ride)
      * Worked in biotechnology field after getting masters but kept coming back to pharmacy
    - Decided on 5-year program because it was better financially
      * Average 20 hours a week

# Q&A Session

1. **Does AP Psychology cover for the psychology prerequisite?**
   * Yes, AP classes (score of 4/5 will count) will count for non-science classes (e.g. calculus, economics, statistics)
   * Prerequisites must be completed prior to entering pharmacy program (July, 31st)
     + Can be in progress while applying
2. **Is both anatomy and physiology required?**
   * Pacific requires that students do BOTH anatomy and physiology prior to starting school in the Gall
   * UCD students must take both the lecture and lab for both courses
3. **How is the cost of living? Do you live on/off campus?**
   * Costs $1300-1800 for studio or one-bedroom apartment
     + Many students live around campus + take MAX line
     + Recommended to live with a roommate to lessen costs
   * Hoda took the MAX line (transportation service) the first year of school
     + Stops right in front of the school (very convenient)
   * Financial aid advisor is very flexible + accessible
     + Helpful for emergencies or if you didn’t take out as much money as you needed
     + Can request for as much financial aid as you want
4. **What kind of extracurricular activities are you involved in? Is it hard to balance school work and other activities?**
   * **Ashley**
     + Part of Professional Student Summit (represents P1 class) & Pacific Pharmacy Association
       - Goes to meetings with other colleges
       - Provided free blood glucose checks at Farmers’ Market
   * **Hoda**
     + Kappa Psi
       - Many social gatherings/events where she met other students
     + Vice President of APHA
       - Focused on policy work
       - Starts meeting with a new policy (e.g. new drug on the market)
     + Egghead program (underserved program)
       - Get to do didactic work + independent studies
       - Great if interested in rural/underserved areas (not many pre-reqs)
         * Required to do 1 underrepresented rotation
     + Worked at Walgreens as pharmacy technician before entering Pacific
       - Not required to get pharmacy experience but it was helpful for the curriculum (get exposure to drugs)
   * All clubs meet at lunch time or after class
     + Not hard to manage time; just have to prioritize what’s important
   * Other extracurricular opportunities at Pacific
     + Pediatric pharmacy club
     + Research Track
     + Honor society
     + Journal Club
     + Industry Organization
     + Pharmacy Fraternities
5. **How many internships/lab experience did you have as an undergrad and how closely did they match what grad schools were looking for?**
   * Lab experiences are not necessary but it’s good to add
   * Pharmacy is more of a community-based job
     + Any type of volunteering in community would be a valuable experience

# Contact Information

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