

# Pharm.D. Program

[pharmacy.ku.edu](http://pharmacy.ku.edu)

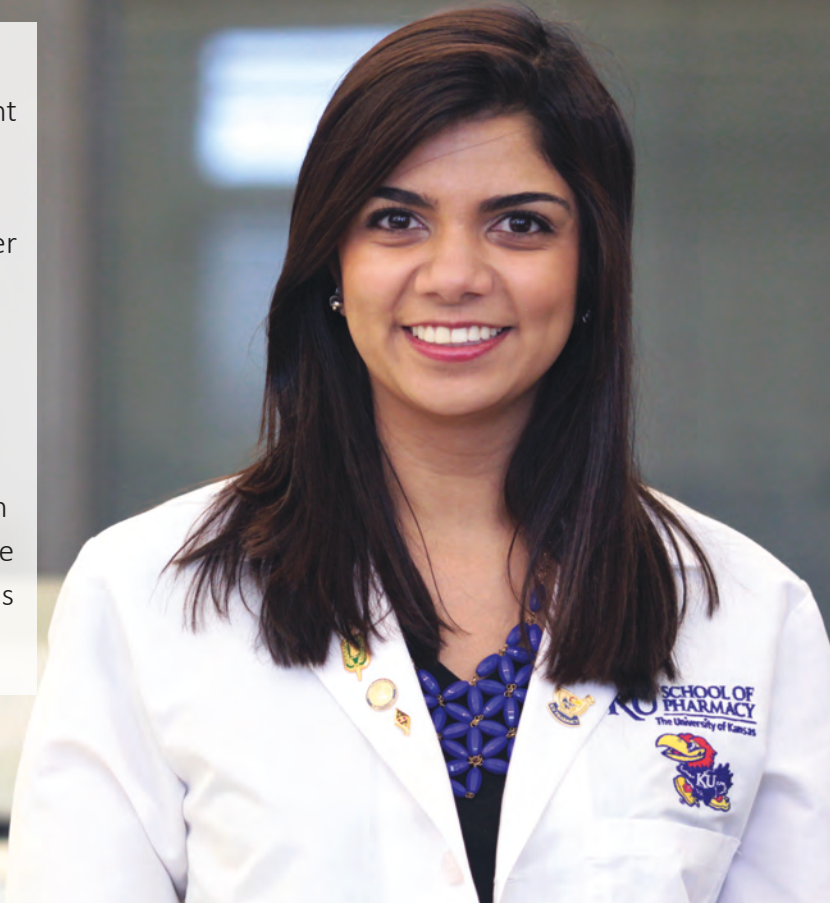


**KU** SCHOOL OF  
PHARMACY  
The University of Kansas

# The pharmacy profession

## Pharmacists are medication

**experts** who play a vital role in patient care. They dispense medications and monitor patients' responses. Pharmacists educate patients and other healthcare providers on prescriptions, over-the-counter medications and healthy lifestyle choices. They advise patients, consumers and health care providers on safe and effective medication use. Pharmacists work with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to make medication decisions that enhance and extend lives.



Gallup's annual survey "U.S. Views on Honesty and Ethical Standards in Professions" continually ranks pharmacy as one of the country's most trusted professions.

**CHOOSE YOUR PATH** Many pharmacists work in retail pharmacies or hospitals, but you'll also find our graduates working as state legislators, serving in the armed forces, inventing and developing pharmaceutical products, teaching future pharmacists and advocating for patients.

## PHARMACY CAREER PATHWAYS

Community / Hospital / Outpatient Clinics  
Compounding / Veterinary / Nuclear  
Public Health / Hospice / Government  
Managed Care / Research / Academia  
Informatics / Specialty Pharmacy / Patient Safety

**IS PHARMACY RIGHT FOR ME?** A career in pharmacy allows you to blend science, business and technology with direct contact with patients.

If you answer yes to most of these questions, pharmacy may be the career path for you.

- Are you a strong communicator?
- Do you have good listening skills?
- Are you good at solving problems?
- Do you want to help people lead healthier lives?
- Do you enjoy working with people?
- Are you comfortable making decisions?

# Pharm.D. program

**BECOMING A PHARMACIST** The KU School of Pharmacy's Pharm.D. Program requires a six-year course of study, including two years of prerequisite courses, three years of full-time classroom and lab work and a final year of clinical rotations.

**PRE-PHARMACY COURSES** You will take courses in general and organic chemistry, molecular cellular biology, microbiology, physiology, anatomy, statistics and calculus. You also have the opportunity to take courses designed to expand your critical thinking skills, strengthen your communication skills and expose you to a wide variety of topics and cultures. Typically, the pre-pharmacy curriculum takes two-to-three years to complete.

**CURRICULUM** The Pharm.D. curriculum allows students to integrate science and clinical knowledge with professional skills to design therapeutic plans and solve patient problems. Students study medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology, pharmacotherapy, law, ethics, drug information, and management. Pharmacy students complete a six-semester skills lab sequence, where they learn how to counsel patients, administer immunizations, compound drugs and operate medical devices, and other practical skills.

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING** The curriculum includes hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to explore a variety of practice settings. Students spend one month working in a community pharmacy after their first academic year and one month in a hospital pharmacy after their second year. They spend the final year completing nine one-month rotations in community, hospital, and ambulatory care practice settings.

**BACHELOR'S OF PHARMACEUTICAL STUDIES** Students earn a Bachelor's of Pharmacy Science Degree after successfully completing their second year of the school's four-year curriculum.

## Be a Jayhawk



**The KU School of Pharmacy is among the premier schools of pharmacy in the country.**

### Faculty

- Learn from internationally recognized researchers and pharmacy leaders
- Seven distinguished professors (largest number of any school at KU)
- Ranked No. 2 nationally in National Institutes of Health funding

### Students

- Residency placement rate well above the national average
- Many opportunities for leadership and community service

### Academics

- Strong curriculum that allows students to apply scientific concepts to clinical practices
- Interprofessional educational activities pair students with medical, nursing, occupational therapy and other health care students

### Facilities

- New, state-of-the-art buildings opened in Lawrence in 2010 and Wichita in 2011.
- Custom-designed pharmacy skills labs in Wichita and Lawrence.



## Want to know if a pharmacy career is right for you?

Work part-time in a local pharmacy or ask to shadow a pharmacist. Investigate different settings such as hospitals, retail pharmacies and specialty pharmacies.

# What are my next steps?

- **Talk to pharmacists and others with knowledge of healthcare.** Ask them about the profession and what advice they have for someone exploring pharmacy school.
- **Meet with a trusted advisor.** High school students should talk to their guidance counselors to design a schedule that includes chemistry, biology, physics, and calculus courses. Pre-pharmacy college students should meet with an advisor from the School of Pharmacy to ensure they are on the right path. Current pharmacy students are also great resources for learning how to navigate the pre-pharmacy curriculum.
- **Get experience in a pharmacy** or other patient care setting. The best way to learn about the profession is to get hands-on experience. Seek employment in a pharmacy or ask a pharmacist if you can spend a day shadowing him or her. Volunteering for a community health care organization or for an advocacy group is another great way to prepare yourself for a pharmacy education.
- **Explore pharmacy resources** like [www.PharmacyForMe.org](http://www.PharmacyForMe.org) and [www.PharmacistsForHealthierLives.org](http://www.PharmacistsForHealthierLives.org), to further develop your perspective of the pharmacy profession.
- **Study hard.** The pre-pharmacy curriculum is rigorous and prepares you well for the Pharm.D. program. Develop time-management and study skills that will allow you to succeed. Take advantage of all the resources available through your university, and aim for grades of B-and-higher.
- **Apply to the KU School of Pharmacy.** During your second year of pre-pharmacy, apply to the KU School of Pharmacy via [www.PharmCAS.org](http://www.PharmCAS.org). This application will include official college transcripts and three recommendations. Promising candidates will be invited for an interview.
- **The KU School of Pharmacy no longer requires the PCAT exam.**