

How to Be a Competitive Applicant

Common Requirements (*for more specific requirements and AP policy, check individual schools*):

- ✓ General Chemistry: **CHE 2ABC** (1 year)
- ✓ Biology: **BIS 2ABC** (1 year)
- ✓ Organic Chemistry: **CHE 118ABC, or the 128 & 129 series** (1 year)
- ✓ General Physics: **PHY 7ABC or 9ABC** (1 year)
- ✓ Calculus: **MAT 16ABC or 17ABC or 21ABC** (2 courses)
- ✓ English Composition: **UWP 1 or ENL 3, UWP 101 or UWP 104F** (2 courses)
- ✓ Economics: **ECN 1A or 1B** (Check school for microeconomics or macroeconomics; if not specified, either is fine)
- ✓ Psychology: **PSC 1** (most schools want psychology and others just want a course in psychology such as cultural anthropology or sociology)
- ✓ Public Speaking: **CMN 1**

Other Course Requirements (*for more specific requirements, check individual schools*):

- ✓ Biochemistry: **BIS 102 and/or 103**
 - Required: Western, USC, Touro, Loma Linda
 - Highly recommended: UCSD
 - Not required: UCSF, UCSD, UOP
- ✓ Mammalian Physiology: **NPB 101 (and NPB101L)**
 - Required: Touro (both), UCSF
 - Strongly recommended: Loma Linda, UCSD
 - Not required: UOP, USC
- ✓ Human Anatomy: **CHA 101 (and CHA 101L)**
 - Required: USC (lecture only), Loma Linda (lecture only), Western (lecture only), Northstate (lecture only), Touro
- ✓ Microbiology: **MIC 101 or 102 + 102L**
 - Required: CNU, USC, Touro, Western, UOP, Loma Linda
 - Not required: UCSF, UCSD

Experience/Work: Pharmacy

- ✓ HBS Internships (lottery)
 - <http://iccweb.ucdavis.edu/HBS/Clinical.htm>
- ✓ Hospital/Clinical Pharmacy
 - Contact local hospitals/clinics to see if you can shadow
 - <http://www.suttermedicalcenter.org/volunteer/becomeavolunteer.html>
- ✓ Get your Pharmacy Technician license!

Experience/Work: Research

- ✓ Find research positions through Aggie Job Link
 - <http://ucdavis-csm.symlicity.com/students/index.php>
- ✓ Talk to your TA's or Professors
 - <http://biosci3.ucdavis.edu/FacultyAndResearch/URO.aspx>
- ✓ How to ask a professor for a research position (email)
 - <http://askdra.blogspot.com/2010/05/how-to-ask-professor-for-research.html>

Extracurricular: Leadership

- ✓ Join any clubs or organizations that interest you (doesn't have to be pharmacy-related)
 - Become an active member
 - Apply for leadership positions
 - Network

Extracurricular: Community Service

- ✓ Be involved in meaningful community service
- ✓ Community Service Listserv
 - Email: communityservice@ucdavis.edu
 - Apply for the community service award
- ✓ Community Service Fraternities/Sororities
- ✓ Community Service Clubs

Extracurricular: Clinics

- ✓ Student Run Clinics
 - <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mdprogram/studentlife/clinics/index.html>
- ✓ Oversea Clinics

PCAT

- ✓ All CA schools *DO NOT REQUIRE* the PCAT
- ✓ Out of State schools that do not require the PCAT:
 - <http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/Pages/PCAT.aspx>

Letters of Recommendation

- ✓ PharmCAS allows you to submit up to 4 LORs but most schools only require 3

Schools	Number required	Required Specifics
UCSF	3	
UCSD	3	
Touro	3	Science Professor
Loma Linda	3	Clergy
Western	3	
Cal Northstate	2	
UOP	2	Pharmacist and Professor
USC	2	

- *No family members, friends, politicians, or lawyers*
- ✓ Who: Professors, pharmacists, employers, supervisors, research PI's...
 - Quality of interaction with them by going to office hours and shadowing pharmacists/volunteering
 - Take advantage of small classes and seminars
 - Take multiple classes with same teacher
- ✓ How to ask for a LOR:
 - Set up an appointment
 - Ask if they feel he/she could write you a **positive** or **strong** letter of recommendation to support your application to pharmacy school
 - Provide them with resumes, personal statements in an organized fashion
 - Give your reference at least 1 month notice, but the earlier the better
 - Provide your reference with a pseudo deadline (i.e. July 1st instead of August 1st)
- ✓ Check in with your letter writer periodically and remember to THANK THEM
- ✓ LORs submitted electronically through PharmCAS

Freshman/Sophomore Track

- ✓ Do not need to be a science major
- ✓ Get your schedule set for the next few years (schedule an appointment with a Pharmacy Peer Advisor)
- ✓ Sophomores: start thinking about professors you would like to do research under
- ✓ Begin pharmacy experience early if possible
- ✓ Active in clubs
- ✓ Leadership position if possible

Junior/Senior Track

- ✓ Start working/volunteering at a pharmacy
- ✓ Look for potential research opportunities
- ✓ Start attending office hours to get to know your professors (letter of recs!)
- ✓ Get involved! (clubs, community service, research)
- ✓ Leadership positions!