Pharmacy Admission: Frequently Asked Questions 2017-2018

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1. What are the admission requirements, and how do I apply?

**Direct entry option**
Direct entry is not an option for this program. Please review the Advanced entry option section for information.

**Advanced Entry Option**
Admission to Pharmacy is based on academic performance and Manitoba residency. For details on both of these eligibility requirements, please carefully read *Applicant Information Bulletin* found here: [http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/media/pharmacy_bulletin.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/media/pharmacy_bulletin.pdf).

Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in section two of the bulletin will not be considered for selection.

**High School Prerequisites**
High school prerequisites*: Biology 40S, Chemistry 40S, Pre-Calculus 40S (min. 60%)  *Many programs will require or recommend specific high school courses over and above their admission requirements. These high school prerequisites are not always required to enter the program, but they must be completed to enrol in certain university courses within it. If a student does not have a particular prerequisite when they enter the program, they may complete an equivalent upgrading course at university that will satisfy the prerequisite requirement.

**Applying**
All applications are facilitated through the University of Manitoba, Office of Admissions, found here: [http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/application/programs/pharmacy-application.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/application/programs/pharmacy-application.html)

2. How many people apply to the program and how many are accepted?

On average we receive approximately 300 applications each year and admit approximately 55 students into the Pharmacy program.

3. What is the "cut-off" to get into Pharmacy?

All applicants must have an AGPA of at least 3.50. Only students who achieve this level will have their essays evaluated. Students who record an essay score of fifteen or more (of a possible thirty) will be ranked for admission.

4. If I have a question about the admissions process or about how my grades are calculated, whom do I contact?

Please contact an Admissions Officer at either (204) 474-8808 or admissions.pharmacy@umanitoba.ca
5. Am I required to take all of my Pharmacy pre-requisite courses in one year at university?

No. Many students take a few years or even complete a degree before they apply to Pharmacy. However, you do have to have at least one regular session (September-April) containing a minimum of 24 credit hours of university level degree-credit courses, with no grade less than a “C”.

6. Do I have to be taking a full course load (i.e. 30 credit hours) during the year that I am applying for admission?

No. As long as you have completed a total of 30 credit hours of university studies, including the required courses no later than April 30th, with no grade less than “C” and you have completed at least one regular session (September-April) containing a minimum of 24 credit hours of university level degree-credit courses, with no grade less than a “C”.

7. Who can apply under the “Special Consideration” category?

a) Indigenous People who are Manitoba residents including Manitobans who apply through the Health Careers ACCESS Program (HCAP) of the University of Manitoba. A maximum number of five successful applicants will be admitted each year under the Special Consideration Category.

8. Do you take work experience, volunteer work or any pharmacy technician courses into account in the selection process?

No, all applicants are ranked for selection according to the following criteria:

a) Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) 70%

b) A written critical skills essay 30%

9. Do people with undergraduate or graduate degrees have a better chance of admission and are they given priority?

No, all applicants are ranked for selection according to the following criteria:

a) Adjusted Grade Point Average (AGPA) 70%

b) A written critical skills essay 30%

10. Can I get special consideration as a 'mature student'?

No, all students are selected using the criteria listed above, regardless of their age.
11. Your web site doesn’t say what the essay topic will be. How can I find out?

The essay topic is confidential and will not be distributed prior the essay writing session.

**Written critical skills essay**

In the written critical skills essay, applicants are assessed on their ability to argue for or against a selected proposition, utilizing proper English language skills.

The essay will be assessed on three criteria: 1) the precision of your response to the topic, 2) the focus, organization and development of the argument, 3) the technical proficiency of language (the control of expression, grammar, and mechanics exhibited in the response). The response should be in the form of a formal, persuasive, academic essay. The time allotted to the writing of the essay will be 1 hour.

12. Can I bring a dictionary to the essay writing?

No, books are not allowed.

13. Do you offer alternate essay writing dates?

No, we only offer one date. The essays are written at the College of Pharmacy, on the next business day after the last day of the April final exam period at the University of Manitoba. Requests to write the essay off-site are considered on a case by case basis.

14. Do I have to write the PCAT?

No, we do not use the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test).

15. When will I be advised if I am admitted?

The Pharmacy Admission Committee generally meets in mid-June and all applicants are notified approximately one week later.

16. If I am accepted into the College of Pharmacy but can’t attend, can I transfer my admission to the following year?

No, admission is valid only for the year you apply.
17. How many years does it take to complete a Pharmacy (B.Sc. Pharm.) degree?

The program takes a minimum of five years – one year of university pre-requisite courses and four years in the pharmacy program.

18. If I have taken some of the science courses required in the Pharmacy program, will I complete the degree sooner?

No, if the courses* are equivalent they will be applied to your Pharmacy degree when you are admitted. This may result in a lighter course load in the first and second year of the program, but it will still take four years to complete the degree.

*Credit will only be given for a course taken within the last ten years, with a minimum passing grade of “C”.

19. Do you offer summer courses?

No, all courses are completed during the regular academic session (September to April).

20. Can I do this degree as a part-time student?

No, the program is full time. Note: All course work for any given year of the Pharmacy program must be completed in order to progress into the consecutive year of the program.

21. I have already taken some of the science courses* in your curriculum. Do I need to take them again if I get into Pharmacy?

No, all equivalent science courses* will be applied to your Pharmacy degree when you are admitted.

*Credit will only be given for a course taken within the last ten years, with a minimum passing grade of “C”.

22. I already have some of the science courses that are part of the Pharmacy program, but they are from another university. Are they acceptable?

Course equivalency is completed by the Evaluations department within Enrolment Services. Please contact an Admissions Officer at either (204) 474-8808 or admissions.pharmacy@umanitoba.ca once you have been accepted into the program.

23. What kind of electives do you suggest for pre-Pharmacy program?

We do not suggest any. Elective means the course is your choice, and we do not give consideration to any
electives taken in one faculty over another.

Please note that if you are admitted into the College of Pharmacy, the course requirements are very specific and there will not be any electives within the four year program.

24. How much tuition can I expect to pay?

Tuition changes from year to year and is also dependent on the number of credit hours taken. Fee information can be found at the following web sites: http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/fees/986.html http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/fees/Undergraduate_Tuition.html

25. I am an out-of-province student, what are the chances of me being considered for a position?

Preference is given to residents of Manitoba, but we will consider outstanding out-of-province applicants. Please see the Applicant Information Bulletin for the description of "a Manitoba resident".

26. Can international students apply for admission to the Pharmacy program?

We can only accept Canadian citizens or permanent residents. You do not have to be either to apply to University 1, but you must have either status by the time you apply to Pharmacy.

27. I am a foreign trained pharmacist and would like to practice in Manitoba. Who should I contact?

You should contact CPhM and the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

**College of Pharmacists of Manitoba**
Telephone: (204) 233-1411
Email: info@cphm.ca
Website: http://mpha.in1touch.org/site/contact?nav=02

**Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada**
Telephone: (416) 979-2431
Email: pebcinfo@pebc.ca
Website: http://www.pebc.ca

28. I am currently in a Pharmacy Program at another university. Can I transfer into the University of Manitoba's Pharmacy program?

No. We do not facilitate "transfers" into our program due to differences in program structure and
requirements. Applicants will only be considered for entry to the first year of the program, regardless of previous academic background.

29. How do I obtain a license to practice as a pharmacist?

During the fourth year of the program you will apply to write the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC and OSCE) exams. The exams are held here at The University of Manitoba usually in late May. If you do not pass the exam, you cannot be licensed but you can write the exam again. After you pass the exam, you must register with the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba and complete all of its requirements for licensure. Please note that each province has its own requirements.

30. What if I want to move to another province or country after graduation?

You would still have to be licensed with the PEBC, but other provinces and states have their own rules and regulations. Some may require further examinations. You should research this at least a year before graduation if you intend to leave the province and work elsewhere.

31. Why does it matter how effective applicants’ language skills are for admission to the College of Pharmacy?

Effective communication skills wouldn’t matter if pharmacists did nothing more than count pills. However, Pharmacists require excellent communication skills. You will be giving out drug and treatment information in a variety of situations and settings - poor communication skills can have disastrous and life threatening implications. If you work as a hospital pharmacist, you will be required to write full and precise treatment plans for patients that can be quickly and accurately understood by other medical staff. You will need to be able to communicate efficiently and precisely, verbally and in writing. If you work in retail a pharmacy environment, you will need to explain to your customers everything they need to know about the medications they are receiving; including dosage, side effects, storage, etc. Your instructions may not always be to people who have good comprehension skills. Your ability to make yourself understood by a wide array of individuals and in a variety of situations will be critical to your success as a Pharmacist. Accordingly, the College of Pharmacy has a professional obligation to assess future pharmacists on their language skills and problem-solving abilities.