### Nature of the Work

For descriptions of this profession see:

- *Student Center* under Resources tab on the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) website ([www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org))
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

### Course Requirements

- Requirements vary by school
- Check the *Pharmacy School Admission Requirements* (PSAR) ([www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org))
- Generally, course work should include general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics; schools will require additional courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities

### Application Timeline

Pharmacy school directly after Gettysburg College:

- Required courses completed by end of fall semester of senior year
- Apply summer between junior and senior years

### Standardized Test

- Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
  - Website: [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info)
  - ~2/3rds of pharmacy schools require the PCAT
  - Given multiple times a year, often in July, September, October, November, and January
  - Register on-line
  - Length ~ 4 h
  - 6 sections: Verbal Ability, Quantitative Ability, Biology, Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Writing
  - Receive scores approximately 5 weeks after test
  - Scores range from 200 to 600
  - Resources on [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info)
    - *Candidate Information Booklet*
    - Practice test

### Application Service

- Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) ([www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org))
- Available ~ June 1
- Each school selects an application deadline (November, December, January, February or March)
- Schools not participating in PharmCAS: apply directly to school
- APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!
| Admissions Criteria       | • Overall and science GPA (check PSAR for #’s)  
|                         | • PCAT scores (check PSAR for #’s)  
|                         | • Letters of evaluation  
|                         | • Interview  
|                         | • Written communication skills  
|                         | • Health-related experience  
|                         | • Extracurricular activities |
| Length of Program        | • 4 academic years or 3 calendar years |
| Degree                  | • Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) |
| Additional Resources     | • American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)  
|                         | • American Pharmacists Association [www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com) |