

BIOLOGY: PHARMD TRACK - ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Overview

The **Associate of Science in Biology: PharmD Track** degree is designed for students intending to pursue a **Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree at Pacific University**. The curriculum includes foundational coursework in biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, communication, and general education that prepares students to complete PharmD prerequisite requirements while earning an associate degree.

Students in the Pharmacy Track have opportunities to:

- Receive advising and academic support
- Participate in workshops and information sessions
- Attend selected School of Pharmacy events
- Connect with current PharmD students and pharmacy professionals
- Pursue conditional admission and a guaranteed interview for Pacific University's PharmD program if program requirements are met

Students may pursue either the accelerated 3-year or extended 5-year PharmD pathway following transfer to Pacific University.

Because admission requirements for professional pharmacy programs may change, students are strongly encouraged to **work closely with an MHCC advisor and Pacific University** to ensure appropriate course selection, prerequisite completion, and alignment with PharmD admission requirements.

Refer to the tabs above for additional information about:

- **Requirements** - outlines prerequisite coursework and degree requirements for the PharmD Track
- **Education Plan** - provides a sample term-by-term sequence of courses
- **How to Apply** - outlines Pharmacy Track participation steps and PharmD application information
- **Career Info** - includes information on potential occupations, employment trends, and earnings

Program Requirements

The degree requirements below outline the courses and credit categories required to complete the **Biology: PharmD Track AS degree**, including science core, and general education requirements. See each section for required courses needed to complete the degree.

For a suggested term-by-term sequence, refer to the **Education Plan** (p.) tab.

Code	Title	Credits
Science Core, 18 courses		66
General Chemistry, 6 courses		
CH221Z & CH227Z	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	
CH222Z & CH228Z	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	

CH223Z & CH229Z	General Chemistry III and General Chemistry III Laboratory	
General Biology, 3 courses		
BI221Z	Principles of Biology: Cells	
BI222Z	Principles of Biology: Organisms	
BI223Z	Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	
Organic Chemistry, 3 courses		
CH241	Organic Chemistry I	
CH242	Organic Chemistry II	
CH243	Organic Chemistry III	
Human Physiology, 3 courses		
BI231Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
BI232Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
BI233Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology III	
Mathematics, 1 course ^{1,2}		
MTH111Z	Precalculus I: Functions (or higher)	
Statistics, 1 course		
STAT243Z	Elementary Statistics I (required for Fall 2028 admission on)	
Written Communication, 1 course ^{1,2}		4
WR121Z	Composition I	
Oral Communication, select 1 course:		3-4
COMM111Z	Public Speaking	
	or COMM115 Introduction to Intercultural Communication	
	or COMM218 Interpersonal Communication	
Arts & Letters, select 1 course (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#arts-letters)		3-4
Social Science, select one 4-credit course (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#socialscience) ¹		4
Health Health and Physical Education, 3 credits from AS list (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#health)		3
Electives to reach 90 applicable degree credits		7
Total Credits		90

¹ Pacific University will accept AP exam credits with a score of 4 or 5 for these requirements.

² Students must complete a minimum of 8 credits in writing. An additional writing course will be required if a student does not meet the minimum requirement.

Education Plan

This sample Education Plan illustrates one possible course sequence. Students should consult an advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) to create a personalized plan.

Course	Title	Credits
First Quarter		
CH221Z & CH227Z	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	5
BI221Z	Principles of Biology: Cells	5
WR121Z	Composition I	4
Elective		1
Credits		15

Second Quarter

CH222Z & CH228Z	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	5
BI222Z	Principles of Biology: Organisms	5
MTH111Z	Precalculus I: Functions	4
Credits		14

Third Quarter

CH223Z & CH229Z	General Chemistry III and General Chemistry III Laboratory	5
BI223Z	Principles of Biology: Ecology and Evolution	5
Oral Communication, select 1 from the following list:		
COMM111Z	Public Speaking	4
or COMM115	or Introduction to Intercultural	
or COMM218Z	Communication ☑	
	or Interpersonal Communication	
Health and Physical Education requirement (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#health)		3
Credits		17

Fourth Quarter

CH241	Organic Chemistry I	5
BI231Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
Arts & Letters, 1 course (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#arts-letters)		3-4
Elective		3
Credits		15

Fifth Quarter

CH242	Organic Chemistry II	5
BI232Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
STAT243Z	Elementary Statistics I (required for Fall 2028 admission and on)	4
Elective		3
Credits		16

Sixth Quarter

CH243	Organic Chemistry III	5
BI233Z	Human Anatomy and Physiology III	4
Social Science, 1 course (https://catalog.mhcc.edu/degree-certificate-requirements/as/#socialscience)		4
Credits		13
Total Credits		90

express interest early in their program have the best opportunity to align coursework with PharmD prerequisite requirements.

Step 3: Complete PharmD Prerequisite Coursework

Students must complete the **Associate of Science in Biology: PharmD Track** degree and all PharmD prerequisite coursework prior to beginning the PharmD program. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

Students must also maintain:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- A science GPA of 3.0 or higher

Students who do not meet GPA requirements may still apply through the standard competitive admissions process, but will not receive conditional admission or a guaranteed interview through the Pharmacy Track partnership.

Step 4: Apply to the PharmD Program

Students apply to **Pacific University's PharmD program** through PharmCAS (<https://www.pharmacas.org/node/32/webform/submission/34/>) while completing remaining prerequisite coursework. A complete application includes official transcripts, letters of reference, and a personal statement. Eligible students participating in the Pharmacy Track will get a **guaranteed interview** as part of the admissions process.

Step 5: Interview and Transition to Pacific University

Students who successfully complete the interview and meet all program requirements may be formally admitted into either the accelerated 3-year or extended 5-year PharmD pathway at Pacific University.

Career Information

Explore potential careers related to this program, including typical job roles, employment trends, and projected growth. This information can help you better understand how your education may align with future career opportunities.

- ★ Course offered online
- ☑ Cultural Literacy course

How to Apply**Step 1: Meet with an Advisor**

Students interested in the Pharmacy Track should meet with an MHCC advisor (<https://www.mhcc.edu/student-resources/academic-advising/>) early to develop an academic plan and review PharmD prerequisite requirements. Early planning helps ensure appropriate course selection and timely completion of requirements for transfer and PharmD admission.

Step 2: Submit an Expression of Interest

Students may submit a Pharmacy Track expression of interest form (<https://www.pacificu.edu/pharmacy-pharmd/admissions/>) to Pacific University at any point during their coursework at MHCC. Students who