

Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)

The PharmD program at Rutgers gives students aspiring to careers in pharmacy the singular opportunity of studying at a research-intensive pharmacy school within one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive academic health centers. In our classrooms and laboratories, and in a wide variety of pharmacy practice settings, our students are mentored by world-class clinical and research faculty while learning alongside their peers within Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, including students of medicine, nursing, and public health, among others.

By studying pharmacy in Rutgers' academic healthcare division, our students are educated for the realities of 21st-century pharmacy practice: patient centered, outcomes oriented, and increasingly partnered with other healthcare professions. And, by being part of the larger Rutgers community, our students get early exposure to the many career pathways in pharmacy, including basic research, public health, health outcomes and economics, pharmaceutical industry management, and more.

The six-year PharmD program begins with two years of pre-professional study and moves seamlessly into four years of professional training. Because ours is one of the country's few 0-6 programs, students can enter directly from high school or transfer from a two- or four-year college into the first professional year.

Looking for more details? Check out information for [prospective students](https://pharmacy.rutgers.edu/info-for/information-prospective-students/) at <https://pharmacy.rutgers.edu/info-for/information-prospective-students/>.

All the Resources of Rutgers

The pharmacy school is part of Rutgers–New Brunswick, the university's research flagship, and has a prime location on its health sciences campus, Busch Campus, in Piscataway. As one of eight schools comprising [Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences](#), our school is a full partner in fulfilling the education, research, and patient care missions of Rutgers' healthcare division. Pharmacy students also have full access to the unlimited opportunities of the Rutgers–New Brunswick community, a Big Ten school with more than 65,000 students from all 50 states and 115 countries.

A Pharmacy-Focused Community

The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy provides students with a close-knit, mission-driven professional school within the larger Rutgers community. With a student body of only 1,350 students, our school nurtures close relationships among students and faculty through shared experience: research, clinical rotations, community outreach, and student pharmacy organizations. Our school is one of the nation's premier pharmacy schools, ranked among the top recipients of federal pharmacy research funding and connected to more than 1,250 clinical practice sites around the country.

Special Student Opportunities

Pharmacy students at Rutgers, a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, thrive in our challenging scholarly environment. They may be invited to join the residential [Honors College](#), an innovative living/learning community of high-achieving Rutgers students. They may conduct research alongside pharmaceutical scientists in our [PharmD Honors Research Program](#) or our [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program](#). And they may learn to advocate for patients and our profession through leadership roles in nearly 20 [student pharmacy organizations](#).

Exciting Career Pathways

With pass rates near 100% on the pharmacy licensure exam, our PharmD graduates are well positioned to launch rewarding careers or to pursue advanced study at the nation's best graduate and professional schools. Innovative [dual-degree options for PharmD students](#) provide accelerated pathways to careers in the healthcare professions and in the pharmaceutical industry. Students nearing graduation might also consider our [postgraduate professional programs](#), including pharmacy residencies in clinical and managed-care settings and industry fellowships with more than 20 of the world's largest pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies.

Applying to the PharmD Program

High School Students

Ours is one of the few 0+6 programs in the country, allowing students to enroll in the Rutgers program directly from high school and earn a PharmD in six years. Students who successfully complete two years of pre-professional study move seamlessly into the four years of professional study leading to the doctoral degree.

[Apply](#) in your senior year by these priority deadlines:

- Early Action: November 1
- Regular Action: December 1

Students interested in our seven-year BS/PharmD program, offered in partnerships with [Montclair State University](#), [Saint Peter's University](#), and [Stockton University](#), apply directly to the partner school of their choice.

Requirements for Admission

Applicants are to complete the following courses in high school:

- 4 years of English
- 2 years of one foreign language
- 3 years of mathematics (algebra I, algebra II, and geometry)
- 1 year of biology
- 1 year of chemistry
- 5 other academic courses (physics recommended)

Beyond these basic requirements, advanced coursework that challenges you as a student reflects well in your admissions review. Consider advanced placement courses, honors courses, and additional coursework in core curricular areas. Going beyond the basic requirements demonstrates to admissions officers your ability to manage intensive course credit loads. Class rank relative to your peers at your high school is considered, weighted by the strength and difficulty of your coursework. Extracurricular activities, work experience, community service, and other indications of a well-rounded applicant are taken into consideration.

Although no specific minimum SAT score is required, as at all colleges, the higher your score, the better your chances. Ultimately, we are interested in students who have challenged themselves academically, socially, and culturally and are able to balance multiple responsibilities.

Conditional Admission

Your admission to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy is conditional on graduating from high school having completed the 12th grade with strong grades in all courses. Undergraduate Admissions may place additional conditions on a student's admission.

AP Credit or Other Advanced Standing

Please be aware a total of eight (8.0) credits derived from sources (including AP coursework, IB exams, and college courses) taken while in high school may be used by students to satisfy course requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program. The exception to the 8.0 credits is in the case of Biology. For students accepting credit in Biology 10 credits will be granted for the 2 courses plus lab.

How Admissions Decision Are Made

Applicants are notified as soon as the decision is final. For qualified early action applicants, we guarantee notification by January 31; and for qualified regular action applicants, notification of our admissions decision will be by February 28.

The decision about which students to admit is based upon our comprehensive review of each application. Primary emphasis is placed on the student's academic promise as demonstrated by:

- Completion of required entrance subjects
- Academic performance in high school or its equivalent:
 - Strength of academic program (number/type of academic, honors, or advanced placement courses completed)
 - Grades and grade trends
 - Weighted grade-point average(s)
 - Cumulative rank, when available
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- English Proficiency Examination results, when required

We also consider such qualitative factors as:

- Personal essay
- Participation in programs designed for college preparation
- Extracurricular activities, including community, volunteer, and/or U.S. military service
- Honors, awards and other achievements
- Special talents
- Employment history
- Family obligations
- Socioeconomic background

The number of applicants Rutgers admits to each of our schools/colleges is determined by the quality of the applicant pool (which changes from year to year and may vary for each college/school of application) and the space in the entering class. Please refer to our admissions profile of previously admitted students.

We review applications when they are complete with all required credentials and we review first the applications submitted by these due dates.

Early action applicants will receive one or more of the following decisions by no later than the end of January: admitted, not admitted, or deferred to regular decision.

Progression into the Professional Years

Progress into the professional years requires an interview and writing assessment. Students on-track in the 0+6 program are guaranteed an interview in the spring semester of the second pre-professional year. The interview is typically with a faculty member and a student in the professional years of the program. Students are also required to complete a standardized writing assessment. No student will be allowed to schedule an interview unless the writing assessment has been completed.

Transfer Students

Build on the coursework you already have, whether you are transferring from another Rutgers school or from another college or university. We welcome applications to our PharmD program from students at two- or four-year colleges who have completed at least 12 credits of college-level coursework. Transfer students are accepted into the four-year professional program only after completion of all preprofessional coursework.

[Apply](#) by February 1 of the year of expected fall enrollment using the Undergraduate Admissions application (even if you have already earned a college degree). Applicants seeking admission as transfer students are required to sit for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), preferably in October to ensure timely receipt of test scores. Our PCAT code is 038.

Students who are currently or were previously enrolled at Rutgers should review information on [school-to-school](#) transfer and on [reenrollment](#), respectively.

Required Coursework for Admission

Applicants for transfer (including degree holders) are expected to have the following courses completed:

- General Biology I & II (w/lab)
- General Chemistry I & II (w/lab)
- English composition I and II
- Calculus I
- Organic Chemistry I & II (w/lab)
- General Physics I & II (w/lab)
- Integrated Organ Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology I & II
- Introduction to Microeconomics
- Basic Statistics for Research
- Humanity/Social Science electives (5)
- Psychology/Sociology elective (1)

How Admissions Decision Are Made

Transfer admissions decisions are based upon a comprehensive review of each completed application. The number of students we can admit is determined by the available space in each class and the quality of the overall applicant pool. These change from year to year.

We place primary emphasis on an applicant's academic promise as demonstrated by:

- Completion of required pre-professional courses
- Strength of academic program
- Grade trends
- Cumulative grade-point average (GPA)

- Preprofessional required science course GPA
- PCAT Scores
- Interview results (interviews are general with a faculty member and student in the professional years)
- English Proficiency Examination results, when required

We also consider such qualitative factors as:

- Community, volunteer, or U.S. military service
- Employment history
- Special talents
- Essay

Transfer students must be in good standing at their current/previous schools to be considered for admission.

Transfer Admission to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy is extremely competitive.

- Successful transfer candidates are expected to place into the third year of the Pharm.D. curriculum. That means successful candidates have completed a minimum 60 college credits and all prerequisite mathematics, science, social science and English composition courses within a liberal arts and sciences context.
- From among that group (who have completed all of the prerequisite courses for placement into year three), we interview the most competitive (as determined by overall grades and demonstrated ability to perform well in the context of a full-time semester of 16 to 18 credits). Successful candidates present competitive scores on the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT), which is required.
- The entering class is chosen based on the candidates' interview results, academic record and overall experience. For a complete listing of the pharmacy curriculum including prerequisites for third-year entry, visit the [Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy](#). You will find that these prerequisites are available at most accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

Please keep in mind the following:

- If your college does not offer a specific "Systems Physiology" course, we will consider two semesters of "Anatomy & Physiology" or one semester

of either human or mammalian physiology. Comparative or Cell Physiology is not appropriate.

- The physics course offered by Rutgers is a specially designed, one-semester course. To satisfy this requirement at other universities, we recommend two semesters of General Physics.
- English composition courses must be completed at a college or university in the United States. English proficiency exams and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses do not satisfy the English writing requirement.
- Technical pharmacy programs in the U.S. and pharmacy programs in other countries generally do not include the required liberal arts and science prerequisites for the Rutgers Pharm.D. program. Graduates of these programs are encouraged to complete the pre-professional prerequisites before applying.
- CLEP and other examinations are not eligible for credit.

Orientation

Admission from High School

Students admitted to the 0+6 should attend the University's New Student Orientation program in the summer prior to entry to the University in September. Additionally, the School of Pharmacy Academic Orientation is required and takes place the week prior to classes starting.

Students who are able to progress into the professional years must also attend the required First Professional (P1) Year Orientation which takes place the week prior to classes starting in the third year of the program.

Admission as a Transfer

Students admitted to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy may attend a transfer oriented New Student Orientation program in the summer prior to entry to the University in September. Transfer students are required to attend the required First Professional Year (P1) Orientation which takes place the week prior to classes starting.