THE PRE-PHARMACY PROGRAM at Clayton State University provides an excellent background for students planning to attend pharmacy school. The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program requires at least two years of undergraduate pre-professional study followed by four academic years of professional study.

Our students earn an associate’s degree while completing the prerequisites. They also have the opportunity to be active in the Pre-Pharmacy Student Association (PPSA) and to learn about pharmacy career opportunities as well as admission requirements.

Many of our graduates attend pharmacy school at the University of Georgia, Mercer University, South University, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine as well as schools outside of the State of Georgia.

WHAT CLASSES WILL YOU NEED TO TAKE AT CLAYTON STATE?

Beyond the core classes, you will also take classes in:
- General Biology
- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Calculus
- Economics

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PRE-PHARMACY PROGRAM CONTACT:

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Program Coordinator and Faculty Advisor
(678) 466-4780
SusanHornbuckle@clayton.edu
Natural and Behavioral Sciences 164
http://www.clayton.edu/science/faculty/hornbuckle

For general information about the program and the curriculum, go to:
http://www.clayton.edu/science/prepharmacyas

To find out about the Pre-Pharmacy Student Association at Clayton State, go to:
http://studentorg.clayton.edu/ppsas/index.htm

ONLINE RESOURCES

Applying to pharmacy school through the Pharmacy College Application Service
http://www.pharmcas.org/

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
www.pcatweb.info/
http://www.testprepreview.com/pcat_practice.htm

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
www.aacp.org/resources/student

Schools of Pharmacy in the U.S.
http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/SchoolLocator.aspx

“Careers in Pharmacy”

National Pharmaceutical Association
www.npha.net

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
www.ashp.org

American College of Clinical Pharmacy
www.accp.com

National Community Pharmacists Association
www.ncpanet.org

National Association of Chain Drug Stores
www.nacds.org

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
www.amcp.org

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
www.ascp.com

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
www.aaps.org/ForStudents/
Top Reasons to be a Pharmacist

- Excel in science
- Enjoy helping people
- Interest in healthcare
- Availability of jobs
- Variety of career options
- Comfortable with technology
- Excellent earning potential
- Flexible work schedules
- A trusted profession

WHAT EXACTLY DOES A PHARMACIST DO?

It’s time to forget the notion that all pharmacists do is count out pills. Dispensing drugs is just part of the job, but the career goes far beyond simply working behind the counter. Some of the benefits of a career in pharmacy include working close to home and a job that’s never dull. A good pharmacist sometimes gets to play detective, potentially saving customers’ lives. With patients going to multiple specialists and, perhaps, multiple drug stores, a helpful pharmacist checks to see what kind of medical problems a patient suffers from and what other medications a patient is taking to avoid potentially life-threatening complications from drug interactions. Pharmacy offers financial rewards in a job where you can positively impact people’s lives. There will be an anticipated shortfall of about 157,000 pharmacists by 2020, according to findings from the Pharmacy Manpower Project Inc.

COMMUNITY RETAIL PHARMACY: The image of the local drug store pharmacist in a white jacket probably pops into your head when you think of a career in pharmacy. About 60% of all pharmacists do work in the community setting. Retail is an appealing career for pharmacy graduates. Attractive starting salaries and making your own hours are part of the lure. The retail pharmacy of today is different from what your perception might be. Today’s retail pharmacists are called upon to counsel patients, rather than just fill prescriptions. Although filling the prescription called in by the doctor is still the No. 1 function, pharmacists also are instrumental in teaching patients about health care. Perhaps you’ve even seen physical changes in your local store where the pharmacist is no longer working behind glass, but down at a special counter where you can consult with him or her. No wonder pharmacists are among the most trusted professionals.

INDEPENDENT OWNERSHIP: This is the ideal situation for a pharmacist who likes community pharmacy, but wants to be his or her own boss. Independent pharmacies are able to stock a range of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) goods and may offer specialty compounding services.

HOSPITALS, CLINICAL PHARMACY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS: Hospital pharmacists work directly with physicians, nurses and patients. In addition to inpatient and outpatient pharmacy services, hospital pharmacy is composed of a number of specialized areas, such as: nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support, oncology, psychiatry, geriatrics, pediatrics, and critical care. To specialize in one of these types of clinical practice, a pharmacy residency (additional education and training) typically is required.

HOME CARE / LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES PHARMACISTS: This field offers the chance to work hand-in-hand with nursing care agencies to provide total care for patients in the home and also involves educating patients and caregivers on the medications.

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST: Consultant pharmacists typically practice in long-term care, often monitoring medication use in extended care facilities.

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTIST: While pharmacists educate patients and advise practitioners about existing medicines to optimize patient care, pharmaceutical scientists discover, develop, test and manufacture new medications. These highly trained experts spend time in laboratory settings studying how different molecules and compounds interact with the human body and with the cells and organisms that cause disease. This career path requires completion of a bachelor’s/master’s degree and/or a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

MANAGED CARE PHARMACY/PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGERS: Often a pharmacist working in managed care creates drug therapies in conjunction with physicians. Pharmacy Benefits Managers, or PBMs, are charged with working with employers to create pharmacy benefit packages.

INDUSTRIAL PHARMACIST/PHARMACEUTICAL SALES AND MARKETING: Most pharmaceutical manufacturers have a variety of jobs for pharmacy graduates such as overseeing drug production, selling products to physicians and retailers, marketing, public relations and working with government regulators.

MAIL-ORDER/DIRECT-TO- CONSUMER PHARMACIST: Both mail order and the Internet represent pharmacy industries growing at warp speed. These sectors need pharmacists to oversee filling, as well as to serve as liaisons with patients.

DRUG INFORMATION CENTERS: Many pharmaceutical manufacturers, retailers, hospitals and universities offer hotlines for patients, doctors and other health care providers. Pharmacists are needed to staff these call centers to ensure accurate information for both professional and personal use is dispensed.

OTHER FIELDS: Pharmacists are needed in a host of federal, state and professional positions: the United States Public Health Service, the Food and Drug Administration, all branches of the armed services, and the Veterans Administration.

(Source: “Careers in Pharmacy” Student Guidebook published by Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals)