What does a major in pharmacy prepare me to do?
A major in pharmacy will lead to a profession as a pharmacist. Pharmacists are licensed professionals who dispense medication as prescribed by doctors and health care workers. They also plan and monitor drug schedules for patients. Typically they work in hospitals, drug stores or retail outlets. However, pharmacists are also able to work in government agencies, the military and public health. Being a pharmacist requires strong attention to detail as mistakes could jeopardize the health and well-being of a patient. They must also be effective communicators and be able to think critically and problem solve. In Washington, the median yearly salary for pharmacists is $113,721. Source: Washington Occupation Information System (WOIS).

How do I prepare for a major in pharmacy? What Washington universities offer this degree?
Entrance to pharmacy programs is highly competitive. Pharmacists often attend college for a period of at least six years, four of which are dedicated to preparation as a pharmacist. Upon completion of their program, pharmacists will have earned their doctorate. (Pharm.D)
Universities in Washington state that offer this program include the University of Washington-Seattle (UW) and Washington State University (WSU).

To be considered for admission to the WSU Program, your overall GPA as reported by PharmCAS must be 3.0 or higher. If your GPA is lower but you have extenuating circumstances that you believe should be considered, you may write a letter to explain. Contact the WSU Pharmacy program for more information.
For the UW program, the cumulative GPA and prerequisite GPA for applicants accepted into the program generally ranges from 3.0 - 4.0 with an average between 3.44 - 3.60.

**List of required prerequisite courses shared by both pharmacy programs:**
BIOL& 211, BIOL&212, BIOL&213, BIOL&260
CHEM &161, CHEM&162, CHEM&163, CHEM&261, CHEM&262, CHEM&263
MATH&146 or BUSN 210 (If applying to WSU, good to take MATH & 146)
MATH&148 or MATH&151 (Note: UW will take either Math; WSU requires Math & 151. Check directly with WSU if they will accept Math & 148)
ENGL&101 and ENGL 205 ECON & 201 over
In addition to the above prerequisites list (see previous page), the **WSU** program also requires the following courses:

- BIO & 241 and BIO& 242
- PSYC& 100
- PHIL&120 or PHIL110 or PHIL 115.
- A Biochemistry course (WSU’s MBIOS 303)-You can enroll for this course via WSU’s Distance Learning.

The **UW** program also requires the following courses:

- Humanities: 10 credits (Must include CMST& 210 or CMST& 220)
- Social Sciences: 10 credits (Must include ECON & 201)
- Biochemistry: 6-12 credits. This course (s) is NOT offered at Highline. You can sign up for UW’s Biochem 405 and 406 via UW Educational Outreach ([www.outreach.washington.edu/uweo](http://www.outreach.washington.edu/uweo)) for non-matriculated students. At the present time, North Seattle Community College and Shoreline College both offer this course (s). Check with other four-year universities to see if they offer biochemistry and **before** you sign up for the course, double check with the UW Pharmacy Program for confirmation.

**Where can I get more information on this career?**

- UW School of Pharmacy  [www.washington.edu](http://www.washington.edu)  
  (NOTE: The UW Pharmacy School offers information sessions for prospective students. Check out their website for a list of session dates/times.)
- WSU College of Pharmacy  [www.wsu.edu](http://www.wsu.edu)
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)  [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)
- American Pharmacists Association  [www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)
- Washington State Pharmacy Association  [www.wsparx.org](http://www.wsparx.org)
- Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)  [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info)

**ALWAYS CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH THE UW/WSU PHARMACY PROGRAM FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS.**

**How do I get assigned a pre-pharmacy faculty adviser to help me with my educational planning?**

To request a faculty adviser, go to: [http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php) or drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to [http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php)