Pre-pharmacy Recommendations from the Health Professions Advisory Group

IMPORTANT: This list does not replace careful research and planning. Please consult with HPAG early and often. The HPAG pharmacy specialist is Dr. Sarisky (sarisky@roanoke.edu, 375-2438, Trexler 565A).

Major in: whatever you’re interested in and passionate about.

Take these courses, which are required by most pharmacy schools:

- Biol 120, 125, 230, 260, 235
- Chem 111, 112, 221, 222
- Calculus (1-2 semesters)
- INQ 240/Statistics
- Physics (1-2 semesters)
- Economics (check school websites – desired course varies)
- Public speaking (COMM 220)
- Additional courses required by your top choice schools (link below). Many require coursework in social/behavioral sciences, but what specifically they want varies.

Do these things:

- Get health-related (preferably pharmacy-related) experience. Work as a pharmacy tech, or volunteer in a clinic, or shadow, or...
- Research specific school requirements: http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/pages/PSAR.aspx
- Keep those grades up!
- Prepare for the PCAT. Plan to be ready to take it in the summer before your senior year. You should have your Biology, Chemistry, and Math coursework completed before taking the PCAT.
- Learn more about issues related to pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and health care in general. Read the health page of a major newspaper and/or choose INQ/HNRS class sections with a healthcare focus.
- Stay connected with HPAG, SIHC, and AED. Attend personal statement-writing workshops, information sessions, school representative visits, etc.

Stuff you need to know about pharmacy school pre-reqs:

- Every school’s requirements are slightly different! Check each school’s website carefully!
- Your INQ or HNRS freshman seminars will typically count for an “English composition” or “Writing/Composition” requirement.
- “3 semester hours” (3SH) is a typical “1 unit” course at Roanoke. “4SH” is a 1 unit lab course.
- Not every course on the list above is offered every semester. Consult an HPAG member for help with getting it all scheduled!
- AP/IB credits?
  - Appalachian will accept AP scores (3 or better) for pre-req courses.
  - VCU will not take AP or IB scores in place of science/math pre-reqs.
  - Shenandoah requires you to take an appropriate higher level course if you have AP credit for one of their requirements.