

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

Minnesota State University Moorhead is a regional, comprehensive university that prepares students for a full range of today's most promising careers. A liberal arts foundation is the hallmark of an MSUM education, giving you the flexibility needed for a lifetime of success.

## Pre-pharmacy Program

About 80 Pharmacy schools in the United States provide doctorate degrees in pharmacy, including North Dakota State University, the University of Minnesota, the University of

Wisconsin, and South Dakota State University. The program at MSUM prepares you for admission to pharmacy schools by providing a range of courses in the areas of science (chemistry, biology, calculus, physics), microeconomics, communication (speech, composition), and humanities (sociology,

psychology, etc).

## Prepharmacy at Minnesota State University Moorhead

### Questions?

**Admissions**  
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**Chemistry Department**  
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**Pre-Pharmacy Advisor**  
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**Visit our Web site**  
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**Visit our Pre-Pharmacy Web site**  
[www.mnstate.edu/jasperse/PrePharmacy/Pharmacy.html](http://www.mnstate.edu/jasperse/PrePharmacy/Pharmacy.html)

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### How Long Does the Whole Pharmacy Education Experience Take?

MSUM's pre-pharmacy will prepare you for pharmacy school after three years at MSUM. Most students study for four years at MSUM to get a degree prior to moving on to pharmacy school. Once in pharmacy school, it takes an additional four years, the first three involving classwork and the last year involving clinical experience. The combination of three to four years of pre-pharmacy and four years in pharmacy school means you can get a doctorate in only seven or eight years total, perhaps the shortest doctoral degree around!

### What Do I Need to Get Into Pharmacy School?

The average GPA for admission to pharmacy schools is 3.7. The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) is normally taken during the summer prior to the final pre-pharmacy year. Experience working in a pharmacy is invaluable, although other health-care experience or volunteer work is also sometimes acceptable. Leadership in extracurricular activities is highly valued. Each specific pharmacy school has its own specific admissions requirements, so it is helpful to decide as soon as possible which pharmacy school you are targeting. MSUM has detailed transfer agreements with area schools (NDSU and U of M), so preparing for them is straightforward. Most other pharmacy schools have similar requirements satisfied by the MSUM pre-pharmacy program.

### Decision-Making Flexibility

The courses that you will take in the pre-pharmacy program are very similar, especially in the first two years, to the classes taken by chemistry majors, biology majors, and students preparing themselves for other professional programs in the health sciences (pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-chiropractic, pre-optometry, etc.). Thus it is very easy to switch to a different program, for whatever reason, after beginning in the pre-pharmacy program.

### Career Opportunities

In 2008 the average starting salary was \$110,000 for graduates of the University of Minnesota. About 60% of U.S. pharmacists work in drugstores, about 20% in hospital settings, and the remaining 20% in a variety of positions including research, pharmaceuticals development, sales, management, and business. With the aging population and the explosion of new and more effective drugs being developed by pharmaceutical companies, the number of prescriptions is rising sharply. (In 2004, 3.5 billion prescriptions were filled, up from 2.8 billion in 1998 and 2.1 billion in 1994). Thus the demand for pharmacists continues to grow, and careers in pharmacy are available in virtually every city and state in the country. Wherever you want to live, big city or in a rural area, there will be a pharmacy job available near you. The national shortage of pharmacists is shared in both Minnesota and North Dakota, so that jobs are easy to find. Careers in pharmacy are frequently characterized by controlled hours that are family and lifestyle friendly. The shortage of pharmacists also provides possibilities for part-time work during certain stages of life.

**For more information on pre-pharmacy**, contact Dr. Craig Jasperse in the Department of Chemistry, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, MN 56563.

