How To Gain Admission to Pharmacy School and Thrive There

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Outline

• Understand the characteristics and implications of pre-pharmacy and pharmacy education.

• Understand the attributes of a student admitted to pharmacy school.

• Understand strategies for success in pre-pharmacy and pharmacy education.
Characteristics and Implications of Pre-pharmacy and Pharmacy Education

• **Characteristics:** Admission to pharmacy school is competitive and the pre-pharmacy curriculum is both rigorous and competitive

• **Implications:**
  • Grades
  • Part-time jobs
  • Extracurricular activities
  • Time sinks
  • Efficiency
Understand the Attributes of a Student Admitted to Pharmacy School

I. Earn good grades
   A. Minimum of 3.0 GPA in prepharm coursework
   B. 3.5 average GPA for PharmD class of 2013

II. Exhibit a commitment to pharmacy career exploration
   A. Strategies – both pre-admission and post-admission
   B. In depth rather than superficial

III. Understand the role that pharmacists play in society and demonstrate a willingness to assume that role
   A. Understand the role of pharmacy in health care delivery systems
   B. Demonstrates evidence of social awareness
Understand the Attributes of a Student Admitted to Pharmacy School II

IV. Submit an application that presents you in the strongest possible light
   A. Have someone edit and proofread your application
   B. Obtains strong letters of recommendation
      1. Referees should know you well
      2. Referees should be credible – they should be very familiar with pharmacy or pharmacy education
      3. Referees should comment on your academic aptitude, professionalism, and commitment to pharmacy/pharmacy education
      4. Referees should comment on strengths and weaknesses

V. Have a strong interview
   A. Review answers to common interview questions
   B. Rehearse interview
   C. Are neat, conservatively dressed, and well groomed
   D. Relax, think before you speak, and answer questions concisely
How to Earn Good Grades

I. Go to class and take notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Grade</th>
<th>Students Enrolled</th>
<th>Students in Class on March 9</th>
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<tr>
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II. Seek help on confusing topics and missing information
How to Earn Good Grades II

III. Review/revise notes in a timely manner after each lecture
   A. Compare to notes provided by instructor
   B. Compare to material in textbook
   C. Do NOT overdo this

IV. Do homework and problem sets

V. Prepare/answer learning objectives and drill regularly
   A. Flash cards – mix them up
   B. Carry everywhere and drill frequently
   C. Study partners are a great resource
How to Earn Good Grades III

VI. Understand the difference between active and passive learning and study accordingly

A. Passive Learning
   1. Compare lecture notes to notes provided by instructor
   2. Compare lecture notes to material in textbook
   3. Review notes
   4. Review lecture recordings
   5. This is easy, but do NOT overdo this
How to Earn Good Grades IV

VI. Understand the difference between active and passive learning and study accordingly

B. Active Learning – analogous to practice in sports and music
   1. Drill learning objectives
   2. Work practice problems
   3. Take practice exams
   4. This is HARD work – but can’t be overdone
VI. Understand the difference between active and passive learning and study accordingly

C. Active learning is more effective than passive learning
How to Earn Good Grades VI

VII. Utilize study time fully and appropriately
   A. Study in 60-minute segments
   B. Study breaks and rewards
   C. Make full use of the available time – weekends and between classes
   D. Don’t fall behind and no “all-nighters”