

Doctor of Pharmacy

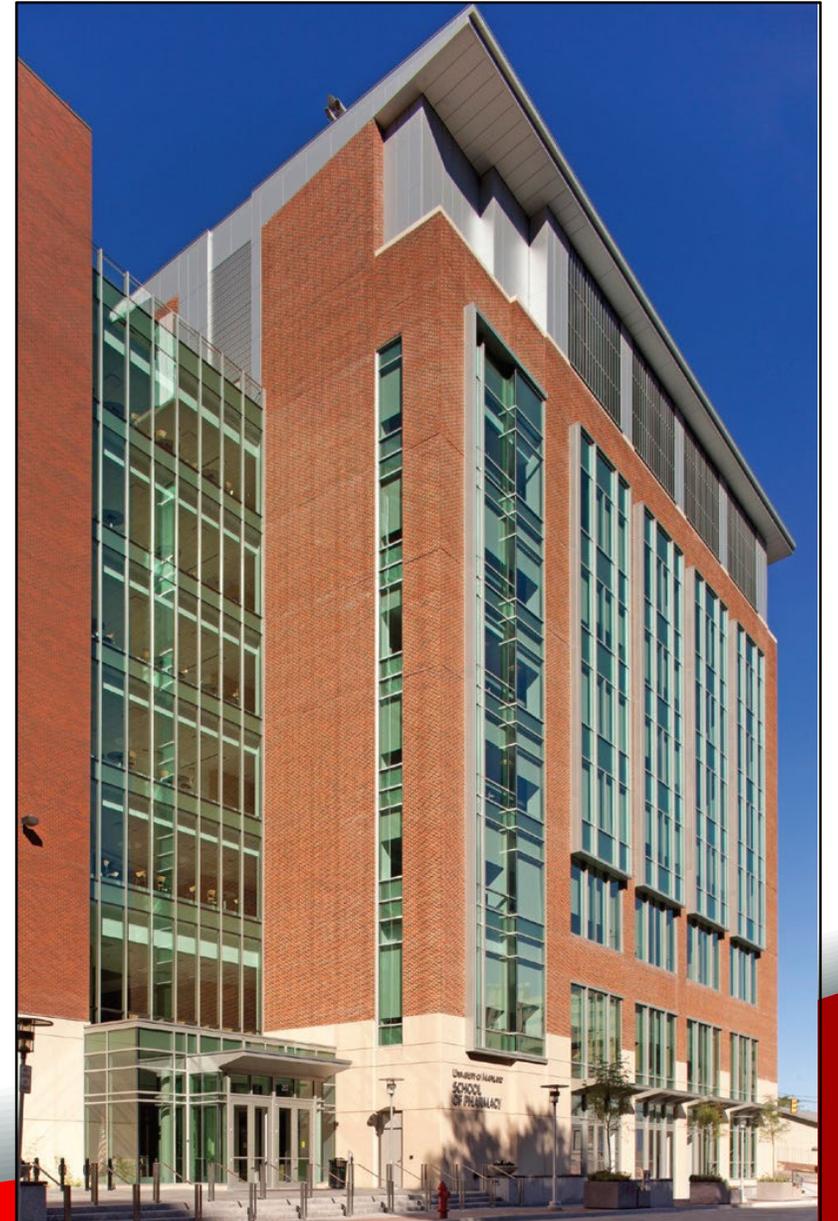


Agenda for today

- 2:00p Introduction
PharmD Application Review
- 2:30p Interview tips
- 3:00p Debrief
- 3:05p Personal Statement
- 3:35p General Q&A
- 3:45p Wrap up



- **Fourth oldest** school of pharmacy
 - Founded in 1841
- **Top 10** in research funding
- **15th ranked** school of pharmacy by *U.S. News & World Report*
- **71 faculty** working across the spectrum of
 - Drug discovery and development
 - Advanced clinical practice
 - Health services research
- More than **7,000 alumni** connections



University of Maryland, Baltimore

The School is one of seven professional schools located at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a thriving center for life sciences research and community service:

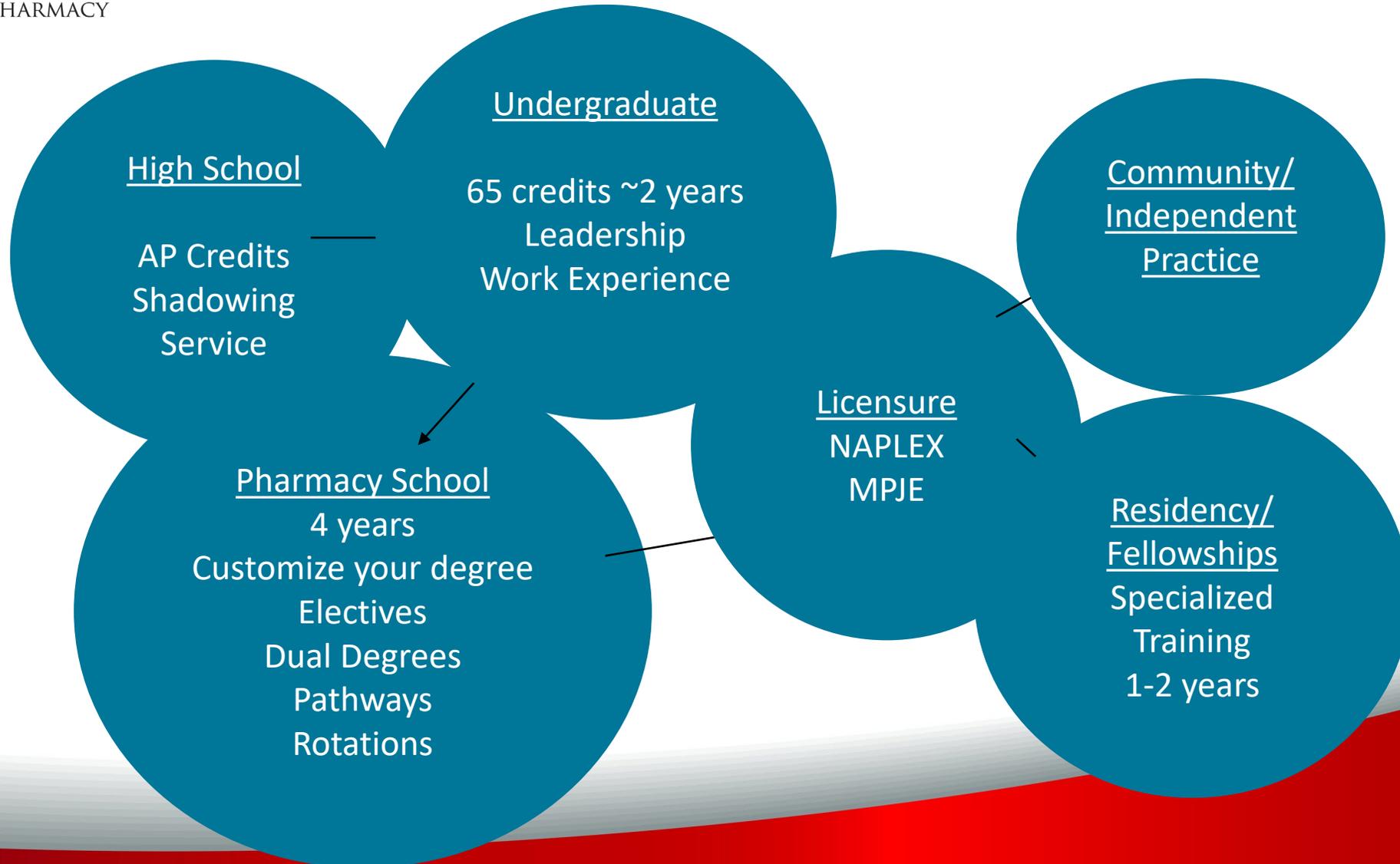
- School of Medicine
- School of Law
- School of Dentistry
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work
- School of Graduate Studies

The University of Maryland, Baltimore shares a campus with:

- University of Maryland Medical Center
- Baltimore VA Medical Center



Path to Doctor of Pharmacy



Sample Pre-Pharm Coursework Plan

YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING
Gen Chemistry I w/lab (4)	Gen Chemistry II w/lab (4)	Organic Chemistry I w/lab (4)	Organic Chemistry II w/lab (4)
Statistics (3)	Microbiology w/lab (4)	Human Anatomy and Physiology I (3)	Human Anatomy and Physiology II (3)
English Composition (3)	Calculus (3)	Physics I (4)	Biology II w/lab (4)
Biology w/lab (4)	Public Speaking (3)	Humanities (3)	Economics (3)
Humanities (3)	Humanities (3)		Humanities (3)

Making your Best Application Preparation!

Sixty-five (65) prerequisite credits

Prereqs are similar across health professions entry requirements
Community college, undergraduate and online credits accepted
Plan out your coursework with an advisor
Should be within 5 years
International credits accepted; evaluation required
Schedule appointment with UM SOP Admissions Counselor

- Talk to family and friends about careers in pharmacy

<https://pharmacyforme.org/>
[My UMSOP Story series](#)

Work as a pharmacy tech or shadow if possible
Shadow a few careers

- Self exploration

Participate in clubs/extracurricular/leadership opportunities
Make connections with advisors/faculty/employers for LOR's
Attend Open Houses/Events
Career Inventories

Admissions Criteria

- GPA: overall 2.5 minimum, 3.3 average
- Sixty-five (65) prerequisite credits
 - Science courses/labs in person
 - Most recent courses within 5 years
- Letters of reference (2-3)
 - Professional references
- Work experience
 - Pharmacy experience not required
- Extracurricular activities
 - Leadership, Volunteer
- Resume (optional)



Admissions Process

- PharmCAS deadline: **April 1, 2025**
 - **Priority Deadline: Jan. 3** for priority scholarship consideration
 - Prerequisites can be in progress up until Fall of entry
- Upload new information to PharmCAS
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Fall/Spring transcripts
- Supplemental materials
 - Resume
 - Supplemental application on UMSOP website
- Submit a FAFSA
- Rolling interviews October through May



PharmCAS Application Components

Personal Information

- Biographic Information
- Preferred Name
- Phonetic Spelling
- Other Information
 - Special Life Circumstances
 - COVID-19 Impact

Academic History

- HS, Colleges Attended
- Transcript Entry

Supporting Information

- Evaluations
- Achievements
- Experiences
- Licenses/Certificates
- Personal Essay



Program Materials – School Specific

- How did you first learn about UMSOP?
- What made you apply?
- What activities have you participated in?
- Dual Degree/Pathway interest
- Describe why applying to UMSOP
- Describe why Pharmacy

Making your Best Application Considerations/Recommendations

Additional Coursework for PharmD prep

- Biochemistry
- Upper-level Biology/Genetics
- 12 or more credits for 2 semesters

Enhancing your Application

- Include your resume
- Exposure to pharmacy careers
- Leadership, involvement

Apply Early

- Priority scholarship



Career Options in Pharmacy



Cardiology Pharmacists



Compounding Pharmacists



Industry Pharmacists



Oncology Pharmacists



Psychiatric Pharmacists



Ambulatory Care Pharmacists



Community Pharmacists



Pediatric Pharmacists



Poison Control Pharmacists

PharmD Curriculum Overview

Year 1

- Coursework in biomedical science, pharmaceutical chemistry, principles of drug action, and immunology, as well as professionalism, ethics, and general patient management.

Year 2

- Therapeutic decision making in each major system/disease state, as well as infectious disease therapeutics, pharmacokinetics, health policy, and weekly clinical skills training.

Year 3

- Pharmacotherapy of multiple disease states, pharmacy practice management, pharmaceuticals, public health pharmacy, and pharmacy law.
- Student pharmacists explore areas of interest through a wide variety of electives, pathways, and dual degrees.

Year 4

- Student pharmacists are off-campus during the entire fourth year for advanced pharmacy practice experiences.

Electives and Rotations



Electives

- IPE Medication Management in **Mental Health**
- Current Concepts and Controversies in **Cardiology**
- Introduction to the **Poison Center**
- Effective **Leadership and Advocacy**
- **Pharmapreneurship** Seminar
- Advanced **Pharmacogenomics**
- **Cannabis Pharmacology** and Therapeutics
- IPE **Culinary Health** and Medicine
- Pharmacotherapy of **Solid Organ Transplantation**

Rotations

- Food and Drug Administration
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Community retail and independent pharmacies
- University of Maryland Medical System
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Public Health Service/Indian Health Service
- International experiences



Dual Degrees and Pathways

Dual Degrees

- PharmD/JD
 - UMB School of Law
- PharmD/MBA
 - University of Baltimore
 - UM Robert H. Smith School
- PharmD/MPH
 - UMB School of Medicine
- PharmD/PhD
 - Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - Pharmaceutical Health Services Research
- PharmD/MS
 - Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics
 - Pharmacometrics
 - Palliative Care
 - Regulatory Science

Pathways

- Geriatrics and Palliative Care
- Pharmacotherapy
- Research
- Pharmapreneurship



Interview Preparation

BEFORE

▶ Research the school's website so you are familiar with the program and requirements in advance.

▶ Practice answering mock interview questions in front of friends, family, or the mirror.

▶ Schedule a mock interview session with your school's career center to receive feedback.

▶ Get hybrid interview **READY**.
(Check your camera, speakers, microphone, background, etc.)



STAR Technique



+ **Situation** - Detail the background. Provide a context. Where? When?

+ **Task** - Describe the challenge and expectations. What needed to be done? Why?

+ **Action** - Elaborate your specific action. What did you do? How? What tools did you use?

+ **Results** - Explain the results: accomplishments, recognition, etc. Quantify.



Let's Practice!

Get ready to volunteer for a mini mock-interview.



Sample Interview Questions

Don't be shy, this is your opportunity to practice and get feedback!



1

Why did you choose to pursue a career in pharmacy?

2

Talk about a time you had a challenging experience. What have you learned from this experience?

3

How has work experience or extracurricular activities developed your transferable skills important to success in graduate school?

4

How would you handle a situation in which your classmate was doing poorly in class and asks for help?



- Did the response answer the question clearly?
- Does the interviewee appear knowledgeable and prepared?
- Did the interviewee speak professionally, confidently, and at an appropriate volume?

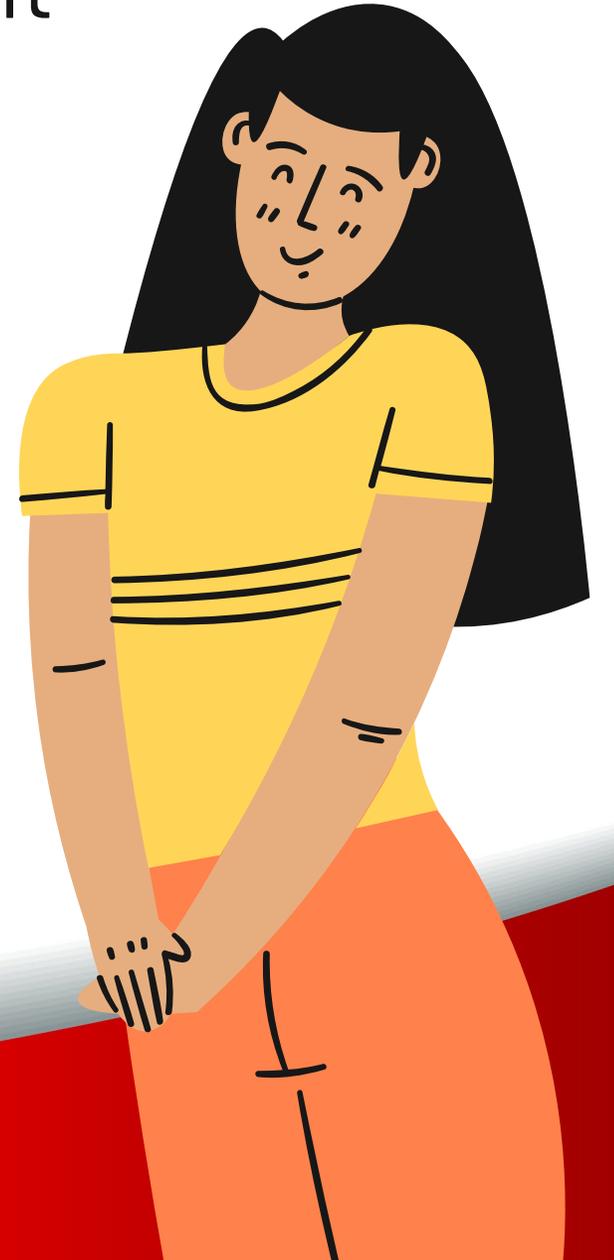


Writing Your Personal Statement

Purpose of a Personal Statement

- To provide the admissions committee with a personal representation of who YOU are!
- To tell what can't be found in the rest of your application materials...
 - your background
 - your motivations
 - your immediate and long-term goals
 - your reason for pursuing a career

Remember, you are MORE THAN your resume, transcript, and test scores!

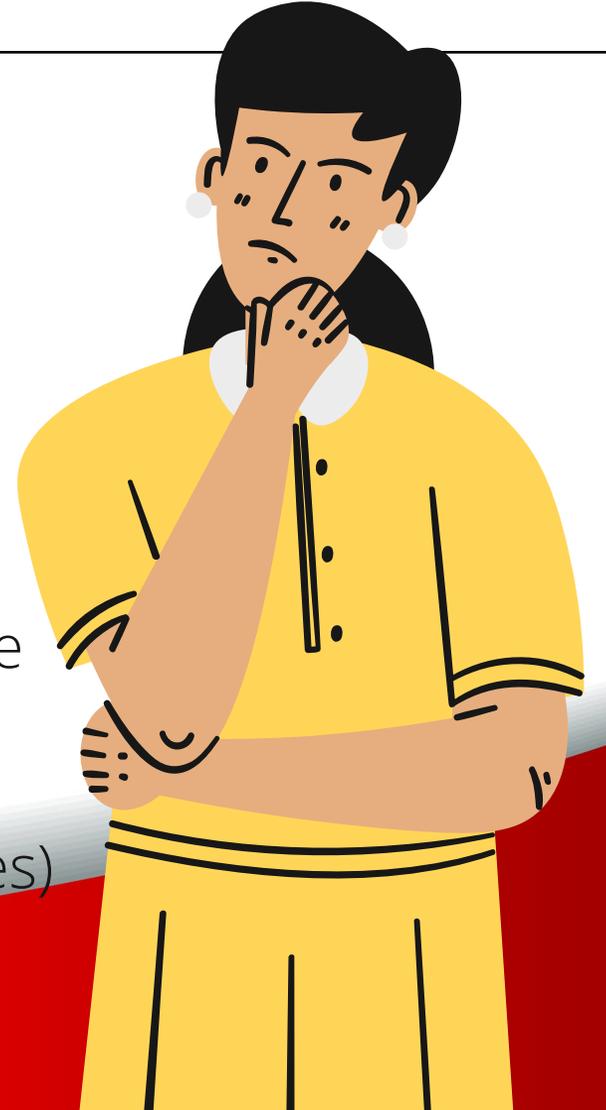


What needs to be addressed in my personal statement?



- Why are you pursuing a career in pharmacy?
- How is a PharmD degree related to your immediate and long-term professional goals?
- How will your personal, educational, and professional background help you achieve your goals?

Character Limit: 4,500 words (including spaces)



Before writing, Brainstorm!

- What is special, distinctive, and/or impressive about you or your life story?
- What aspects of your personal life might help the admissions committee better understand you?
- When did you first become interested in pharmacy and what experiences further reinforced your passion for the field?
- What are your career goals?
- If you have work or leadership experience, how has that work contributed to your growth?
- Have you had to overcome any hardships in your life?
- What personal characteristics and skills do you possess that will improve your success as a future pharmacist?

General Outline of a Personal Statement

There is NO specific or "correct" formula for a personal statement!

- I. Introduction - Draw the reader in with a story or hook. Provide background or context as to why you chose pharmacy as a career.
- II. Supporting Paragraphs (2-3) - Develop your argument by evaluating your experiences and claims.
- III. Conclusion - Describe how these experiences, strengths and motivations make you a good candidate for the PharmD program. Discuss short-term and long-term goals.



- Don't be too broad - narrow your focus to one or two key themes or experiences.
- Be unique. Tell the admissions committee something that sets you apart from other applicants.
- Be genuine and true to yourself, don't try to be the "ideal" applicant.
- Give the admissions committee insight on what drives you.
- Evaluate your experiences instead of describing them.
- Be positive, enthusiastic, and memorable.

- Don't procrastinate! Give yourself plenty of time to brainstorm, draft and revise.
- Avoid repeating information that is found elsewhere in the application.
 - Avoid simply listing your accomplishments.
- Do NOT plagiarize. Use original ideas and phrasing.
- Avoid talking about money as a motivator!
- Avoid immature, controversial, or radical viewpoints.
- Be professional! No profanity or slang.
- Highlight what makes you unique without being arrogant or boastful.



SUPER TIP: ASK FOR FEEDBACK

DRAFT. REWRITE. REVISE. EDIT.

Sample Personal Statements

What did the writer do well? What could they improve on?

Medications are an essential part of life. Pharmacists do not only save lives, but they have a good reputation as well. They have many job responsibilities such as dispensing medications, giving shots, and talking to patients. I am applying to pharmacy school because pharmacists are among the top paid careers, and I want to help people.

I am very involved at my current university. I consistently get a 4.0 GPA and I have been on the Dean's list every semester. My extracurricular activities include being a member of the debate team, drama club, and club tennis. In pharmacy school, I plan to be very involved and continue to get a 4.0 GPA.





I would like to study pharmacy as I wish to play a part in providing medical assistance to the general public, but in also understanding how this process occurs. My enthusiasm in science highly interests me into learning about the production of drugs and their functions on the body.

I am currently gaining work experience at a local pharmacy. My tasks are to complete prescriptions, track orders, and serve customers. The diversifying role of a pharmacist has made the local pharmacy a source for advice and even weight management counselling. Having witnessed this, it has reinforced my decision to pursue a career in a community pharmacy.

...

The pharmacist plays a pivotal role in today's society. They are not only considered as a dispenser of medicine, but in my opinion, more so as a valued member of a community. Ultimately, with the pharmacy degree, I will be able to subsidize my passion to assisting others along with broadening and strengthening my knowledge of the sciences. With the variety of skills and knowledge I have gained over the past few years will enable me to study and develop myself to the fullest at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Personal Statement Writing Ready!



Affording your Education



- Tuition per year:
 - Maryland Resident: \$29,643
 - Non-Maryland Resident: \$47,345
 - [View Residency Policy](#)
- Most students receive financial aid
 - Combination of loans, grants, scholarships
- FAFSA application
 - Priority deadline Mar. 1
 - Scholarships applied

Support On Campus

- Peer Tutoring
- Career Navigation
- Academic Advising
- URecFit & Wellness
- Housing on Campus
- Safe Walk/Safe Ride
- Student Development & Leadership
- Educational Support & Disability Services
- International Services
- Student Counseling Center
- Writing Center
- Intercultural Center



Student Organizations

A Bridge to
Academic
Excellence

American College of
Clinical Pharmacy

Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy

American
Pharmacists
Association-
Academy of Student
Pharmacists

American Society of
Consultant
Pharmacists

American Society of
Health System
Pharmacists

Student Government
Association

Christian
Pharmacists
Fellowship
International

American
Association of
Psychiatric
Pharmacists

Global Medical
Brigades

Industry Pharmacists
Organization

Kappa Psi

National Community
Pharmacists
Association

Phi Delta Chi

Phi Lambda Sigma

Pediatric Pharmacy
Advocacy Group

Rho Chi

Student Section of
the Maryland Public
Health Association

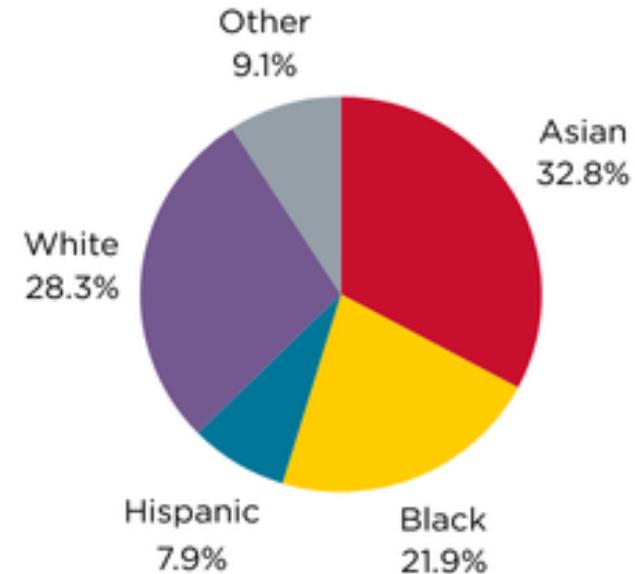
Student National
Pharmaceutical
Association

Students Promoting
Awareness

Why PharmD at UMSOP?

- Over 500 rotations, electives
- Comprehensive program
- Interdisciplinary opportunities
- Student organizations
- Diverse student population
- Location
 - Numerous hospitals, health facilities
 - NIH, FDA, US Public Health Service

DIVERSITY IN THE PHARMD PROGRAM



Sign up for more information!



pharmdassist@umaryland.edu

410-706-7653

Book a virtual appointment

Tours of PH & Campus

