

Pharm.D.

In the [United States](#) the Pharm. D. (Doctor of [Pharmacy](#)) degree is a [professional doctorate](#) (also called [first professional degree](#)) that prepares the graduate for pharmacy practice. Even though professional doctorates and academic research doctorates both utilize the term "doctor", the Pharm. D., just like the M.D., D.D.S. or DPT, is not a research doctorate and is not equivalent to the traditional Ph.D. The multidisciplinary curriculum may focus on pharmacy-biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, social and administrative sciences, pharmacy law and policy, clinical sciences and experiential training. The curriculum prepares the graduate for practice in the academic, community, or primary care setting.

While less rigorous pharmacy programs do not require prior completion of an undergraduate degree, many top level schools look favorably upon applicants who hold one. For those students who desire a more accelerated pace, it takes a minimum of six academic years, which can be completed in five calendar years, after high school graduation to complete the Pharm. D. program. However, it is quite common for pharmacy students, like medical students, to take eight years to complete the degree which includes 4 years of university in addition to 4 years of graduate school.

Traditionally in the United States, the [bachelor's degree](#) in pharmacy was the first-professional degree for pharmacy practice. However, in 1990, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) mandated that a doctorate in pharmacy would be the new first-professional degree. As of the year 2000, all pharmacy schools in the U.S. have discontinued the B.S.Pharm. (Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy) degree program.