UConn’s Special Program in Pharmacy (SPiP)

A pharmacy-focused curriculum for freshmen
Conn’s Special Program in Pharmacy (SPiP) offers talented incoming freshmen who are interested in pharmacy, the opportunity to combine pharmacy instruction and training with a broad liberal arts-based education. This unique program is designed to nurture highly motivated students giving them the opportunity to explore diverse interests and succeed in pharmacy with flexibility and enrichment.

SPiP students join the prestigious UConn Honors Program and those who meet program expectations are given priority when applying to the School of Pharmacy.

SPiP curriculum begins with two years (freshman and sophomore years) of prerequisite and liberal arts education coursework that then leads to four years of professional pharmacy education. The result is two degrees: a BS in Pharmacy Studies and Pharm.D., Doctor of Pharmacy.

Within SPiP’s six year curriculum, students can select powerful combinations of courses and experiences that will further their professional advancement. They may also decide to take extra time for pharmacy enrichment (travel, internships and more) prior to entering the four year professional program.

While enrolled in SPiP, students will be connected with experiential opportunities as well as seminars, research opportunities, and health-profession events, all aimed at supporting the achievement of curricular and career goals. Students are continuously supported and advised throughout the program. UConn School of Pharmacy’s unique mentoring program also enriches the undergraduate experience by providing educational opportunities that strengthen the student’s preparation while building connections and experience.

New England regional students in SPiP are eligible for reduced tuition. Please find more detail on the New England Regional Student Program at admissions.uconn.edu/cost-aid/tuition/rsp

Degree Time Frame

Students completing the undergraduate program receive a BS in Pharmacy Studies after four years. This degree requires the completion of university and program degree requirements and includes two professional years in the pharmacy program. The professional doctorate degree of Pharm.D. is conferred after an additional two years of professional pharmacy education.

Our alumni work in:
- Clinical pharmacy practice
- Community pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Academia – pharmacy education
- Consulting – legal, government, managed care
- Public administration
- Research
- And more
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can I be considered for the SPIP with a major on my UConn application other than pre-pharmacy?</td>
<td>Yes, but your major should focus on the STEM fields and on completing the required math/science prerequisite courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I transfer into the SPIP after the freshman year?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are international students eligible for admission to SPIP?</td>
<td>Yes, English competency is based on SAT verbal scores and/or graduation from an English speaking high school outside of the US and the rigor of their English curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the advantages to being in SPIP?</td>
<td>It is expected that as a student in SPIP, you will be accepted into the professional pharmacy program. You would also be admitted to the Honors Program and will live as freshmen in the Honors Living Learning Community. You will also have access to a variety of enrichment programs as well as elective courses normally open only to matriculated pharmacy students. Additionally, students in specific neighboring states are eligible for New England regional tuition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have to stay in the Honors Program to stay in SPIP?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I don’t get into SPIP or don’t stay in it, can I still apply to the Pharmacy professional program after the freshman year?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are some enrichment opportunities in Pharmacy outside of class?</td>
<td>You can participate in research experiences, challenging course electives, study abroad journeys, and, once in pharmacy school, unique curricular tracks and dual degree programs such as MBA/PharmD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If accepted into SPIP, do I still need to apply to the professional program through PharmCAS and take the PCAT?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I be a pharmacist with a BS in Pharmacy Studies?</td>
<td>No, you must obtain a Pharm.D. degree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPiP Admission Requirements and Deadlines

To apply to SPiP, a student must be entering UConn as a first-semester freshman. In general, students must have demonstrated exceptional performance in academics, including advanced preparation in mathematics and laboratory sciences, and other fields. There are no state residency requirements. The University is committed to attracting candidates from populations under-represented in pharmacy.

SPiP is looking for students who have:
• an overall high school grade point average of 3.4 (4.0 scale).
• SAT combined score of 1350 (New SAT) or an ACT composite score of 29. SAT II Subject Tests are not considered.
• a completed application to the University with all supporting documents (to include two letters of recommendation*) received by December 15. A high school profile should also be submitted along with the high school transcript.
• essay questions specific to the Special Program in Pharmacy by December 15.
• Skype interviews may be required with the School of Pharmacy in late January — by invitation only
• Extracurricular activities and commitment to the health profession are considered.

It is anticipated that applicants will matriculate into the School of Pharmacy upon completion of undergraduate course pre-requisites and upon meeting the following additional criteria:
• Completion of PharmCAS application
• Completion of math science prerequisites by spring semester in the year of application
• A college cumulative grade point average of 3.4 (4.0 scale).
• A prerequisite math science grade point average of 3.4 (4.0 scale)
• A PCAT composite percentile score of 60 or higher.
• Participation in clinical, research, and/or community services activities.
• Favorable admission interview during the Pharm.D. application phase (not during the freshman application phase.)

If a student does not maintain enrollment in SPiP, he/she will remain a part of the pre-pharmacy applicant pool and can apply as such.

Supplemental Program Application
Incoming freshman applicants wanting to apply to SPiP must indicate their interest in the program on their application to the University as well as complete the program’s online supplemental application questions and submit two letters of recommendation by December 15.

admissions.uconn.edu/apply/freshman/special-programs/pharmacy

*Essay questions specific to the Special Program in Pharmacy can be found on the supplemental application. Essays must be saved in a single Word or PDF document and uploaded onto the supplemental application.

*Recommendation letters should address the student’s current academic status, extra-curricular achievements, personal qualities, and potential for future success in and contributions to the field of pharmacy practice / healthcare and community.