

Doctor of Pharmacy/Doctor of Philosophy Program

Program Description

The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)/Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Dual Degree Program enables highly qualified students to obtain both degrees in a shortened period of time. This dual degree program is designed primarily for students who are strongly motivated toward an academic/research career in the pharmaceutical sciences. The dual degree program is flexible enough to accommodate individuals of varied educational backgrounds. The actual time required for completion of the program depends on the individual qualifications and interests of the student.

Program Outcomes/Objectives

The outcomes and objectives of both the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree programs apply to the Pharm.D./Ph.D. Dual Degree Program.

Admission Requirements

In order to enroll in the Pharm.D./Ph.D. Dual Degree Program, a student must separately apply for and gain admission to both the Pharm.D. and the Ph.D. degree programs. It is recommended that a student apply for admission to the Ph.D. program at the time he/she applies for admission to the Pharm.D. program. A student may join the dual degree program after beginning the Pharm.D. degree program at Mercer by gaining admission to the Ph.D. degree program. However, this should be done by the spring semester of the first year in order to gain full potential benefits from the program. Application forms for admission to the Ph.D. degree program may be obtained from the Ph.D. Program Director in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

All applicants to the dual degree program must have a minimum of an earned Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. This degree may be in any discipline, but all pre-pharmacy requirements must be satisfied at the time of admission. In addition, applicants are expected to satisfy the following requirements for admission to the Ph.D. degree program:

1. Submit a completed application form and additional information requested on the form, along with a non-refundable \$25 application fee.
2. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, based on a 4.0 scale.
3. Perform satisfactorily on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), with a minimum score of 1000 (composite of verbal and quantitative sections).
4. Score at least 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), if the applicant is from a non-English speaking country.
5. Submit official transcripts from each college or university attended.

6. Submit three letters of recommendation (on specific forms provided by the department) from persons able to evaluate the applicant's academic abilities.
7. Schedule a personal interview with selected department faculty members.

Program Requirements

Upon acceptance into the dual degree program, an advisor from the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences will be assigned to the student. The advisor will schedule the program of study until the student selects a major professor. The specific program selected will be determined by the student's previous academic history, as well as by the departmental requirements of the Ph.D. program.

The first three years of the program include completion of all Ph.D. prerequisite courses and the core required courses in the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. programs. The following structural modifications have been made to the Pharm.D. curriculum:

1. Several courses in the Pharm. D. curriculum are not required in this program. These courses are:

PHA 305. Pharmacy Management	(4 hours)
PHA xxx. Advanced Practice Experiences Elective	(5 hours)
PHA xxx. Advanced Practice Experiences Elective	(5 hours)
2. The graduate courses Quantitative Aspects of Drug Action I and II (6 hours) will substitute for General Principles of Pharmacotherapy 440.
3. Completion of the Ph.D. core required curriculum will satisfy the requirements for professional electives.

At the conclusion of the third year, students will complete elective graduate courses and embark on the research component of the curriculum. The advanced pharmacy practice experiences will be completed during the summers after completion of all prerequisite courses.

Students will participate in the graduate seminar throughout their matriculation, and they will enroll for credit in the spring semester, beginning with the third year.

Admission to this program is granted with the expectation that students will complete requirements of both the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Should a student decide to withdraw from the dual degree program, they must reapply for admission to the Pharm.D. program, and, if accepted, they must fulfill all requirements of the Pharm.D. program.

Summary

The dual-degree program will be limited to no more than three students per academic year.

1. Several courses in the Pharm.D. curriculum will be eliminated as requirements:

PHA 305. Pharmacy Management	(4 hours)
PHA xxx. Advanced Practice Experiences Elective	(5 hours)
PHA xxx. Advanced Practice Experiences Elective	(5 hours)
PHA xxx. Professional Electives (already approved)	(8 hours)

2. Substitute the graduate courses Quantitative Aspects of Drug Action I and II for General Principles of Pharmacotherapy 440.

Financial Arrangements

Students who are enrolled in the Pharm.D./Ph.D. program will pay full tuition for the first three years. Tuition waivers will be granted for the remainder of the program, normally the fourth through seventh years. Students will be encouraged to apply for extramural funding of their educational program. Departmental stipends will be awarded on a competitive basis for the fourth through seventh years, subject to availability. Stipend support beyond this time will be based on extramural funding. Financial support through tuition waivers or stipends is provided based on contributions to the teaching program, as described in departmental policies.