

PHARMACY, DOCTOR OF (PHARM.D.)/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MASTER OF (M.B.A.) [DUAL DEGREE]

Advanced study in business administration and pharmacy is available through a dual degree program sponsored by the School of Business and School of Pharmacy.

The dual degree Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Pharmacy program allows students to earn two degrees with a minimum of 184.5 graduate credits rather than the 193.5 graduate credits necessary if the two degrees were pursued separately. This efficiency lowers the overall cost of tuition while also reducing time to earning both degrees.

Students must complete their first year of the Pharm.D. program in good standing before considering the dual degree program. A recommendation from the School of Pharmacy is required to be submitted with the M.B.A. application.

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may effectively increase the number of credits needed to earn the degrees.

Program goals

The objectives of this dual degree program are to:

- Prepare pharmacy graduates to be effective leaders and managers in organizations
- Equip pharmacy graduates with tools and techniques that optimize managerial decisions
- Provide the ability to organize, synthesize and analyze information for decision-making to achieve strategic organizational goals
- Develop managerial skills necessary to design and implement effective governance mechanisms in organizations
- Develop interpersonal and professional skills critical to business including communication and presentation skills, leadership and management, and situational awareness, among others

Among the many benefits offered by participation in the dual degree program are the following:

- Complementing the technical knowledge obtained in the pharmacy program with general management skills obtained in the M.B.A.
- Enhanced ability to effectively compete for managerial positions across a wide spectrum of levels in today's organizations
- Enhanced job prospects particularly for candidates intending to switch careers or striving to move up within their organizations
- The ability to effectively complete both degrees within a shorter time frame with considerable time and tuition savings through the nine dual-counted credits

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded sequentially or simultaneously. Students are not required to begin both programs in the same semester, but must be enrolled in both degrees for at least one semester prior to graduation from either program for credits to be shared across programs.

Student learning outcomes

See each degree program page for student learning outcomes.

Other information

Advising

A program manager and/or faculty adviser from each program will serve as an adviser and administrative liaison for students. They will assist in developing a plan of study to meet the curriculum requirements of both programs.

Admission requirements

Students must officially apply and be admitted to each degree program separately before the pursuit of the dual degree program may begin. It is not required to begin both programs in the same semester. View the application requirements for each program for additional details.

Degree requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 184.5 total credits to earn the Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Pharmacy.

A total of nine credits may be counted toward both programs. Each of the courses below are requirements for the Pharm.D. that satisfy M.B.A. electives.

Course	Title	Hours
PHAR 502	Introduction to Pharmacoeconomics	1
PHAR 507	Introduction to Health Informatics	1
PHAR 532	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice	3
PHAR 545	The U.S. Health Care System	1.5
PHAR 702	Pharmacy Practice Management	2.5

The diplomas for this dual degree program may be awarded sequentially or simultaneously.

Curriculum requirements for the dual degree

Course	Title	Hours
Pharm.D. requirements		
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1
IPEC 502	Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	1
IPEC 560	Interprofessional Collaborative Care for Older Adults	1
MEDC 527	Basic Pharmaceutical Principles for the Practicing Pharmacist	3
MEDC 533	Pharmacognosy	1
MEDC 542	Biotechnology-derived Therapeutic Agents	1
MEDC 553	Concepts in the Medicinal Chemistry of Therapeutics Agents	1
PCEU 507	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I	2.5
PCEU 508	Pharmacokinetics	3
PCEU 509	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II	3
PCEU 601	Applied Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics	2.5

PHAR 501	Pharmaceutical Calculations	1	PHAR 702	Pharmacy Practice Management (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	2.5
PHAR 502	Introduction to Pharmacoeconomics (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1	PHAR 703	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Complex Patient Cases and Critical Care	3.5
PHAR 503	Ethics and Equity	1.5	PHAR 715	Continuous Professional Development III	1
PHAR 505	Pathophysiology and Patient Assessment Skills	3	PHAR 724	Pharmacy Law	2.5
PHAR 506	Nonprescription Medications and Self-care	2	PHAR 730	Continuous Professional Development IV	.5
PHAR 507	Introduction to Health Informatics (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1	PHAR 760	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I	5
PHAR 508	Evidence-based Pharmacy I	2	PHAR 761	Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 511	Evidence-based Pharmacy II	2	PHAR 763	Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 515	Continuous Professional Development I	1	PHAR 765	Elective I	5
PHAR 523	Foundations I	2	PHAR 766	Elective II	5
PHAR 524	Foundations II	1.5	PHAR 767	Clinical Selective I	5
PHAR 530	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice	4	PHAR 768	Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 532	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3	PHAR 773	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II	5
PHAR 533	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Patient Care	.5	PHTX 606	Introduction to Pharmacology of Therapeutic Agents	1
PHAR 534	Foundations III	1.5	Electives		8
PHAR 535	Foundations IV	1.5	M.B.A. requirements		
PHAR 544	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Cardiovascular	4.5	• Required courses		
PHAR 545	The U.S. Health Care System (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1.5	ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3
PHAR 546	Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery 1	1.5	ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
PHAR 551	Pharmacy-based Point of Care Testing 1	1.5	ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
PHAR 555	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology	2.5	FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3
PHAR 556	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology	3.5	FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
PHAR 602	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Psychiatry	3	INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	3
PHAR 603	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Respiratory/Immunology	2.5	INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
PHAR 604	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Infectious Diseases	4	MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
PHAR 605	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Hematology/Oncology	2.5	MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
PHAR 606	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Nephrology/Urology	2	MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
PHAR 609	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Reproductive Health, Dermatology, EENT, Bone and Joint	3.5	SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
PHAR 615	Continuous Professional Development II	1	SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
PHAR 618	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Gastrointestinal/Nutrition	2.5	• Electives		
PHAR 640	Foundations V	1.5	Satisfied by PHAR 502, PHAR 507, PHAR 532, PHAR 545 and PHAR 702		
PHAR 645	Foundations VI	1.5	Total Hours		184.5
PHAR 652	Health Promotion and Communication in Pharmacy Practice	2	The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 184.5.		
			Sample plan of study		
			What follows is an example plan that meets the prescribed requirements. Students may work with their adviser to consider an individual enrollment plan that best meets their goals. Part-time enrollment and summer courses may be considered.		
			P1 year		
			Fall		
			IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1

MEDC 527	Basic Pharmaceutical Principles for the Practicing Pharmacist	3	SCMA 524	Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management	3
MEDC 533	Pharmacognosy	1	Term Hours:		21
PCEU 507	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I	2.5	Spring		
PHAR 501	Pharmaceutical Calculations	1	ACCT 608	Managerial Accounting Concepts	3
PHAR 505	Pathophysiology and Patient Assessment Skills	3	IPEC 502	Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	1
PHAR 515	Continuous Professional Development I (continues)	1	PHAR 502	Introduction to Pharmacoeconomics (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1
PHAR 523	Foundations I	2	PHAR 503	Ethics and Equity	1.5
PHAR 545	The U.S. Health Care System (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1.5	PHAR 511	Evidence-based Pharmacy II	2
PHAR 652	Health Promotion and Communication in Pharmacy Practice	2	PHAR 532	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	3
Term Hours:		17	PHAR 535	Foundations IV	1.5
Spring			PHAR 604	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Infectious Diseases ¹	4
MEDC 553	Concepts in the Medicinal Chemistry of Therapeutics Agents ¹	1	PHAR 606	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Nephrology/Urology ¹	2
PCEU 508	Pharmacokinetics	3	PHAR 615	Continuous Professional Development II Elective ²	2
PCEU 509	Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II	3	Term Hours:		22
PHAR 506	Nonprescription Medications and Self-care	2	Summer		
PHAR 515	Continuous Professional Development I	1	INFO 661	Information Systems for Managers	3
PHAR 524	Foundations II	1.5	MKTG 671	Marketing Management	3
PHAR 530	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice	4	Term Hours:		6
PHAR 544	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Cardiovascular ¹	4.5	P3 year		
PHTX 606	Introduction to Pharmacology of Therapeutic Agents ¹	1	Fall		
Term Hours:		21	ECON 610	Managerial Economics	3
Summer			MGMT 641	Leading People and Organizations	3
ACCT 507	Fundamentals of Accounting	3	PHAR 507	Introduction to Health Informatics (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	1
FIRE 520	Financial Concepts of Management	3	PHAR 551	Pharmacy-based Point of Care Testing ¹	1.5
Term Hours:		6	PHAR 556	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology ¹	3.5
P2 year			PHAR 602	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Psychiatry ¹	3
Fall			PHAR 605	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Hematology/Oncology ¹	2.5
MEDC 542	Biotechnology-derived Therapeutic Agents ¹	1	PHAR 640	Foundations V	1.5
PCEU 601	Applied Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics	2.5	PHAR 715	Continuous Professional Development III (continues)	1
PHAR 508	Evidence-based Pharmacy I	2	Elective ²		2
PHAR 534	Foundations III	1.5	Term Hours:		21
PHAR 546	Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery ¹	1.5	Spring		
PHAR 555	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology ¹	2.5	FIRE 623	Financial Management	3
PHAR 603	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Respiratory/Immunology ¹	2.5	IPEC 560	Interprofessional Collaborative Care for Older Adults	1
PHAR 615	Continuous Professional Development II (continues)	1	PHAR 533	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Patient Care	0.5
PHAR 618	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Gastrointestinal/Nutrition ¹	2.5	PHAR 609	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Reproductive Health, Dermatology, EENT, Bone and Joint ¹	3.5
Elective ²		2	PHAR 645	Foundations VI	1.5
			PHAR 702	Pharmacy Practice Management (satisfies M.B.A. elective)	2.5

PHAR 703	Clinical Therapeutics Module: Complex Patient Cases and Critical Care ¹	3.5
PHAR 715	Continuous Professional Development III (continues)	1
PHAR 724	Pharmacy Law	2.5
Elective ²		2
Term Hours:		21
Summer		
SCMA 675	Operations Management	3
Term Hours:		3
P4 year (over 45 weeks)		
INFO 664	Information Systems for Business Intelligence	3
MGMT 642	Business Policy and Strategy	3
PHAR 730	Continuous Professional Development IV	0.5
PHAR 760	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I	5
PHAR 761	Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 763	Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 765	Elective I	5
PHAR 766	Elective II	5
PHAR 767	Clinical Selective I	5
PHAR 768	Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice	5
PHAR 773	Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II	5
Term Hours:		46.5
Total Hours:		184.5

1

Course will be taught as a module.

2

Students will complete four total credits of electives over the course of the year.

The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this dual degree is 184.5.

Contacts

School of Business
Austen Gouldman
gouldmana@vcu.edu
(804) 828-4622

School of Pharmacy
Admissions and Student Services
vcupharm@vcu.edu
(804) 828-3000