PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PHARMACOTHERAPY

Program goal
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the Master of Science level.

Student learning outcomes
1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills
   The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s advisor regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Other information
See the School of Pharmacy website for the process handbook (https://pharmacy.vcu.edu/media/pharmacy/documents/GraduateHandbook.pdf). Current graduate students (https://pharmacy.vcu.edu/admissions/graduate/students/) may visit the school’s website for additional resources, and prospective students (https://pharmacy.vcu.edu/admissions/graduate/) may apply online.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1 (priority consideration for financial aid Feb 1)</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL (international applicants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite
and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info/), M.S. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 didactic credit hours of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All M.S. students must pass the thesis review and defense in each department in order to advance to graduate.

**Curriculum requirements**

**School of Pharmacy core curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543 or STAT 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I or Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods (1 credit repeated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 601</td>
<td>Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I (1 credit repeated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety (or equivalent)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following:

- PCEU/MEDC/PHAR 614: Research Techniques (variable credit)
- MEDC 526: Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)

Select a minimum of one credit from the following:

- PCEU 690: Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit)
- MEDC 690: Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit)
- PHAR 690: Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)
- PSCI 607 & PSCI 608: Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf and

Total Hours: 9

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

**Concentration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II (or equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 626</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacotherapy Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 637</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 9

Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives (minimum six credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A minimum of six elective credit hours is recommended for the M.S. The elective courses taken will generally be selected from a list identified by the major adviser and will be agreed upon by the major adviser and student.

**Research**

Students are required to complete a thesis. The six credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacy (variable credit; minimum six credits)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 30.

**Graduate program director**

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**Program website:** pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/)