

PHARMACY, DOCTOR OF (PHARM.D.)/PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) [DUAL DEGREE]

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

The Pharm.D./Ph.D. program in the School of Pharmacy is a full-time program of professional education that offers an opportunity for advanced study in pharmaceutical sciences. The program recognizes the need for pharmacy practitioners with excellent research skills in clinical, academic, industrial and regulatory environments. The program is designed to take advantage of efficiencies in both the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. curricula and to allow Pharm.D./Ph.D. students to complete the Pharm.D. program requirements after four years and the Ph.D. program requirements within the next two to four years.

Pharm.D./Ph.D. students can focus on the following research areas within the School of Pharmacy: pharmacotherapy and health outcomes, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, biopharmaceutical analysis, pharmaceutics/physical pharmacy, and medicinal chemistry. Students also may focus on pharmacology and toxicology within the School of Medicine. The choice of research area determines the required graduate course requirements.

During their P-2 through P-4 years, Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will complete the required Pharm.D. curriculum using graduate courses in lieu of required Pharm.D. courses and Pharm.D. electives. In addition, Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will engage in graduate research during the summer semesters following the P-2 and P-4 years. After the P-4 year and beyond (G-1 and G-2), Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will complete both their graduate course requirements and Ph.D. dissertation research project as full-time graduate students. Stipends and tuition reimbursement may be provided for Pharm.D./Ph.D. students serving as graduate teaching or research assistants.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (<http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu>).

Application to the Doctor of Pharmacy/Doctor of Philosophy program

Students may be admitted into the Pharm.D./Ph.D. program during the first or second year (P-1 and P-2) of enrollment in the Pharm.D. program. Applicants must demonstrate a good academic record, experience in research (e.g., during summer research fellowships after the P-1 year with one of the School of Pharmacy's graduate faculty) and successful completion of the Graduate Record Examination. Additionally, the application must be sponsored by a graduate faculty member as the prospective major graduate adviser. Appropriate progress of Pharm.D./Ph.D. students in the program will be assessed by the Pharm.D./Ph.D. subcommittee after each semester until successful completion of the comprehensive examinations.

Graduate program director

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