



PharmD and MSHSA Dual Degree Policy and Guidance

Background

As students prepare for a career in pharmacy, there is a need to assess their preparation in terms of career objectives and the career path they would like to pursue in the short and long term. The PharmD degree serves as an incredible foundation for a career in our profession with numerous opportunities in a variety of settings, environments, and locations across the US.

In addition to these opportunities, some aspire to leverage their clinical practice knowledge in community, healthcare institutional practice, industry, academia government, and other settings to move into upper management or health care administrative positions. Those who are attracted to this type of career path may be particularly interested in the MS degree. PharmD students who envision themselves advancing to management or health care administrative positions will need opportunities to develop their acumen in administration and applied research. This is most efficiently achieved through a dual degree that combines the PharmD with the MSHSA degree. An MSHSA degree will prepare PharmD students to provide an immediate impact for their future employers in the areas including, but not limited to, health institution leadership, health quality and improvement, biopharmaceutical regulation and compliance, or health economics and outcomes research.

The MSHSA program provides PharmD students with the opportunity to diversify their graduate experience. They will be enrolled in a program with students of varying backgrounds and professional experience. The MSHSA program provides students with flexibility in course selection so that students can pursue a track of interest. Graduates of the PharmD/MSHSA program will be prepared to assume leadership positions in pharmacy and health care administration or as entrepreneurs in the health care sector.

Admissions

Prospective students for the dual PharmD/MSHSA program will need to apply to both programs separately. In addition to the admission documents required for the PharmD, the MSHSA program will require a MSHSA application, letters of recommendation, a letter of interest, and a summary of college courses completed. For a PharmD student to be admitted to the MSHSA program, the applicant must have either a) received a prior baccalaureate or PharmD degree, or b) have completed at least 100 credit hours from an accredited university. In addition, Students admitted to the MSHSA program must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the program.

Course of Study

Students must complete a minimum of 146 credit hours towards the PharmD and 30 credits towards the MSHSA. The Dual degree program has been established to provide PharmD students that opportunity to complete both degrees within four years. While

students may receive permission to alter the timing of the courses, all requirements for both programs must be completed within six years.

Coursework Applied to both PharmD and MSHSA Degrees

- PHCY 5040 Evolution of the American Healthcare System (2)
- PHCY 5441 Intro to Health System Leadership or equivalent course (3)
- PHCY 6246 Management, Marketing & Finance (3)
- PHCY 6240 Research Methods (3)
- PHCY 6341 Pharmacy Law (3)
- PHCY 6344 Health Policy/Advocacy (2)
- PHCY XXXX MS Selective Course to serve as PharmD Elective (2)

Students enrolled in the dual PharmD/MSHSA program may apply up to nine (9) credit hours of PharmD coursework toward the 30-credit MSHSA degree, reducing the additional coursework required for the MSHSA to 21 credit hours.

The PharmD degree requires 146 credit hours, including seven (7) credit hours of elective coursework. For students enrolled in the dual degree program, the PharmD elective requirement is waived in recognition of the additional 21 credit hours completed toward the MSHSA degree.

Graduation

Students must fulfill the requirements for each degree to receive that degree. Certain courses, listed below, are counted toward requirements in both programs (thus, reducing the total hours). To keep abreast with changes in the healthcare system, the curricula are subject to change or modification as required by the programs or accrediting organizations. Students should be aware that changes must be expected, and they will be included in their academic program. The School of Pharmacy does not plan to change graduation requirements but does reserve the right to change any provisions or requirement deemed necessary at any time during the student's term of residence.

Because of the MSHSA program requirement, all courses counted toward requirements in both programs must be completed with a C or better conditioned on maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA. All Graduate Regulations will apply to all courses within the degree programs.

In the event that a student completes the requirements for the PharmD degree prior to completing the requirement for the MS degree, the student may be awarded the PharmD degree without simultaneously being awarded the MS degree. However, students in the dual degree program may not receive the MS degree prior to receiving the PharmD degree unless they already have a bachelor's degree.

A student in the dual degree program will be required to complete 139 credit hours for the PharmD degree and 30 credit hours for the MSHSA degree.

Any issues not envisioned by this Memorandum will be resolved by the School of Pharmacy Dean and the MSHSA Director.