Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences

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Degrees Offered
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Joint Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy

Research interests are complementary to the focus of each of the two pathways in the program: pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences, and health outcomes. Key areas of research interest and expertise in the pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences pathway include: pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacology, cancer, neuroscience, nanoscience, and toxicology. Key areas of research interest and expertise in the health outcomes pathway include: health outcomes, health disparities, health services, health quality, pharmacoconomics, pharmacoepidemiology, patient reported outcomes, and health behavior.

Graduate Program Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Science

The School of Pharmacy offers a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences with two pathways aimed at training competent researchers and educators: health outcomes research, and pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences. Both pathways in the graduate program provide interdisciplinary, research-oriented curricula designed to develop the interests, capabilities, and potential of the individual student.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission into the graduate program must satisfy the WVU and Health Sciences Center general requirements for admission as a graduate student. The applicant must possess a baccalaureate degree, background in a suitable area of study, an overall grade point average of at least 3.0, and the aptitude and interest for graduate work in pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences or health outcomes research to be admitted. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in the verbal, quantitative, and analytic essay portions are required from all students planning on entering the graduate program. TOEFL scores are generally required of international students from countries where English is not the primary language.

Academic Standards

No credits are acceptable toward a graduate degree with a grade lower than a C. A graduate student is expected to have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 in all graduate courses to continue in the program and to qualify for a Ph.D. degree.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The School of Pharmacy offers programs of study leading to the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences via two pathways: health outcomes research, and pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences. Specialty areas of study include: pharmacology, drug metabolism, cancer cell biology, nanotechnology, health outcomes, epidemiology, and policy research.

Requirements for Ph.D. Degree

Students enrolling in the health outcomes pathway are admitted directly into the School of Pharmacy. To obtain specific application and admission information about the Ph.D. program pathway in health outcomes research, please visit: http://pharmacy.hsc.wvu.edu/🇴🇷/Pathways/Health-Outcomes-Pathway.

Students planning on enrolling in the pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences pathway are admitted through the health sciences center interdisciplinary graduate program in biomedical science, through which they complete the first year of study. During the first year, students take a required set of courses and rotate through the laboratories of potential research mentors. At the end of the first year, students may formally enroll in the pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences graduate program and select a research advisor.

For each pathway in the graduate program, upon completion of the second year of study, students must submit a formal plan of study and a research plan that is approved by their Ph.D. committee. Progress is expected to continue with guidance from the student’s research committee. Final admission to candidacy requires satisfactory performance on written and oral qualifying examinations as well as a dissertation proposal defense. Subsequent to
admission to candidacy, a substantial part of the program is devoted to an original research project which culminates in a first-authored publication and dissertation. To be recommended for a Ph.D., the dissertation must be satisfactorily completed and defended at an oral examination.

For more specific information, please contact the associate dean for research and graduate programs:

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