

Course descriptions

PHA 749. Introduction to Research

2 hours

Students are required to work with a faculty member on a research topic. Students who register for this course will also need to additionally present a poster or an abstract

PHA799. Thesis Research

10 hours

This course is laboratory-based research project. Students enrolled in this course will work on a research project with a faculty member in the research laboratory. This course is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade basis.

PHA 798. Non-Thesis Project

10 hours

This course is literature-based project. Students enrolled in this course will work with a faculty member on non-laboratory based research topics. This course is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade basis.

Miscellaneous requirements

Graduate students in the M.S. Program must complete all degree requirements within three years of the initial date of matriculation. A student who opts for Thesis Research must be in residence at all times, including at the time of completion of the thesis. Students who opt for the Non-Thesis Project option may choose to take listed courses online but it must be synchronous. Students who opt for the Thesis Research option, must take courses in-person only. Mercer's Canvas zoom system will be used to deliver all courses to the students who select the Non-Thesis Project option. All exams will be conducted using the lockdown browser, ExamSoft. Quizzes and other in-class activities will be conducted using Canvas. Students who select the on-line option, must leave their video streaming on at all times during class times. No recordings of lectures will be provided for viewing at a later time.

Abstract presentation requirement

All candidates for the M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program must demonstrate experience in scientific writing by submitting and presenting at least one abstract at a local, regional or national meeting.

Thesis defense (for thesis option)

An important requirement for obtaining the M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree is completion of an original research project. This project must be conducted under the direct supervision of the student's major professor in consultation with the Thesis Committee.

Pharm.D./ Masters of Science (M.S.) in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program

Program Description

The combined Pharm.D./ M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program is offered to students who demonstrate exceptional scholarly activity through achievement in academics and original thesis research or non-thesis project in an area of the pharmaceutical sciences. The program is flexible enough to accommodate individuals of varied educational backgrounds. The time required for completion of the program is two years. The program is offered with two options: A) a thesis option and B) a non-thesis project option. Students who opt for Thesis Research must be in residence at all times, including at the time of completion of the Thesis. Students who opt for the Non-Thesis Project option must take the listed courses synchronously on-line at the same time as the students who opt for the Thesis Research option. Additionally, students in the combined

Pharm.D./ M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program receive credit for courses such as Pharmacokinetics and Foundations in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Courses such as Foundation in Research, Scientific writing, Statistical methods and Introduction to Research will be counted as electives for the Pharm.D. program.

Program Outcomes/Objectives

The combined Pharm.D./Masters in Pharmaceutical Sciences (M.S.) degree is granted to students who demonstrate exceptional scholarly activity through achievement in academics and original research in an area of the pharmaceutical sciences.

The specific goals of this graduate program include:

1. Equipping the graduates with the skills necessary to perform in academia, in the pharmaceutical industry or in government;
2. Fostering the development of oral and written communication skills to be used in classroom instruction, in the presentation of research findings to the scientific community and in interdisciplinary collaborative research efforts.

Admission policy

Applications for admission to the graduate program are evaluated by the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Graduate Committee of the DPS. Minimum expectations for consideration for admission into the graduate program include the following:

1. A Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, Chemistry, Biology, or an equivalent degree in a related area, Pharm.D. degree or conditional admission with completion of 2 years in the Pharm.D. program
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale
3. For an applicant from a country where the primary language is other than English, a minimum TOEFL score of 100 (IBT) or a score of 7.5 (IELTS).

Application for admission must be made on forms that may be obtained from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences or the department web page. An application cannot be given final consideration until all required components have been received. A complete application consists of the following:

1. Applicants must submit all material as required into the on-line system.
2. Official transcripts. An official transcript is one that has been issued by an institution and received by the Department in an envelope sealed by the issuing institution. The transcript will contain the official college seal or stamp and the signature of the Registrar. You are required to submit one separate official transcript from each college or university you have previously attended or are currently attending. Faxed documents are not accepted as official.
3. Official report of TOEFL scores, if required. Please use Institution Code 5623 & Department Code 0613.
4. International students with degrees that have not been earned at a regionally accredited institution are required to provide a report by a professional evaluation service for foreign course evaluations. The evaluation should name and describe all diplomas, certificates, degrees, periods of education or training and give U.S. equivalencies for each. Mercer University accepts evaluations from the following two services:

- World Education Services [www.wes.org]
- Josef Silny & Associates, Inc. [www.jsilny.org/services.aspx]

5. A meeting with the Director of Graduate programs and some department faculty

Recommendations on the supplied forms from three persons who are able to judge the applicant's accomplishments and academic ability. Recommendation forms should be sent directly to the Director of Graduate Programs. Acceptance into the graduate program in Pharmaceutical Sciences is based on the overall record and ability of the applicant. Applicants failing to meet the required minimum GPA may be considered for admission provided their record is indicative of exceptional ability.

Program Requirements

Pharm.D./M.S. Pharmaceutical Sciences Required Courses (25 hours)

PHA 715	Pharmacokinetics*	3 semester hours
PHA 742	Foundations in Pharmaceutical Sciences*	5 semester hours
PHA 743	Foundations in Research	3 semester hours
PHA 744	Scientific Writing	3 semester hours
PHA 745	Statistical Methods	3 semester hours
PHA 749	Introduction to Research	2 semester hours
PHA 797	Graduate Seminar	1 semester hour

Choose one:

- PHA 799 Thesis Research 5 semester hours
- PHA 798 Non-Thesis Project 5 semester hours

*(credit from Pharm.D. courses)

Residence requirements

Graduate students in the Pharm.D./M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program must complete all degree requirements within six years of the initial date of matriculation. Two years must be completed in residence at Mercer University. For the thesis option, a student must be in residence at the time of completion of the thesis.

Abstract presentation requirement

All candidates for the M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree must demonstrate experience in scientific writing by submitting and presenting at least one abstract at a local, regional or national meeting.

Thesis defense (for thesis option)

An important requirement for obtaining the Master's degree is completion of an original research project. This project must be conducted under the direct supervision of the student's major professor in consultation with the Thesis Committee.