

Phases of Experiential Education

The Introductory Pharmacy Practice experiences span the 2nd through 6th semesters of the curriculum. The Advanced Pharmacy Practice experiences will comprise the last year of the curriculum, semesters 7 and 8. During semester one, a course titled Pharmaceutical Care I (PHM 6130) will contain a linked introduction to medical and prescription terminology, the top 200 medications, basic issues in pharmacy law, ethics, and diversity/equity in health care to support students in early practice experiences.

Early Pharmacy Practice Experience, Phase One (Semesters 2, 3)

The primary focus of this sequence is an introduction to traditional pharmacy through experiences in community pharmacies and distributive services of hospital pharmacy practice. Students are exposed to practical elements of pharmacy such as processing and dispensing medications, conducting patient interviews, calculations required to compound, dispensing and administering medications, interacting with health care professionals, assessing patient health literacy and compliance, and communicating effectively with patients and health care providers.

Early Pharmacy Practice Experience, Phase Two (Semester 3)

This experience builds on knowledge and skills formed in the prior experiences, increasing levels of patients and interprofessional contact and student pharmacist responsibility. For example, students may receive hands-on practice experience in patient assessments relevant to pharmaceutical care; advising patients about self-care products and devices; non-sterile and sterile compounding; multicultural patient needs; responding to drug information questions, and ambulatory care pharmacy services. The underlying focus of these competencies will be communication skills development.

At this stage, concepts in public health and population-based care may be introduced. Learning in these areas is hands-on under the direction of experiential education faculty with occasional instruction from other health professions and health system management experts. Students begin to focus on areas of individual interest in preparation for selecting a curricular concentration.

Intermediate Pharmacy Practice Experience, Phase Three (Semesters 5, 6)

The past and concurrent didactic course work will provide students with a broader knowledge base allowing them to learn and apply their knowledge at a higher skill level. Students will continue to develop skills in drug information and build the cognitive frame work to directly apply that information to patient-centered care. Communication skills are continually emphasized as students begin to develop integrative skills necessary to understand, differentiate, and manage real-life patient care problems.

One of these two experiences must be completed in the students chosen concentration.

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences allow students to continue to refine and develop practice skill sets. The Introductory experiences will have provided students the opportunity of being more prepared for advanced practice rotations. Students will be exposed to increasingly complex issues in pharmacy management, informatics, pharmacotherapy decision making and monitoring, and public

health. Of the four elective rotations, students must complete two in their chosen area of concentration.

Case-based learning will be emphasized along with common clinical teaching techniques and scenarios. Students will be responsible for completing activities such as grand rounds, in-service presentations, patient presentations, and journal clubs.