

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
DOCTOR OF PHARMACY HONORS PROGRAM**

MISSION

The Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program provides research opportunities in the College of Pharmacy to students enrolled in the professional Doctor of Pharmacy program. Qualified students who are academically strong and who are motivated to pursue educational opportunities outside of the classroom will work with faculty research mentors to develop research projects and explore areas of interest that complement and enhance their experiences in the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Students in the first year of the professional program are eligible to apply to the Honors Program. Admission of students early in the program will enable the students to develop strong relationships with faculty research mentors and well-designed research projects. Students who successfully complete research projects and the requirements as set forth by the Honors Committee will graduate with honors distinction.

Student Benefits. Students admitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program will:

- Learn about basic, clinical, outcomes research, or other scholarly activities related to health sciences
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills to formulate and test hypotheses, discuss disease interventions, or improve patient care
- Work one-on-one with an accomplished faculty mentor
- Interact with other research faculty members and personnel, graduate students, and other Honors students
- Attend seminars including those presented by outside guest speakers and research experts
- Develop communication skills through oral and poster presentations of research work
- Build a strong curriculum vitae to be more competitive in the job market or as an applicant to residency/graduate school
- Work with faculty members who can provide letters of recommendation in support of career advancement
- Expand career opportunities
- Build lifelong professional relationships

Students who are interested in the joint Pharm.D/PhD program can receive valuable research experience for the PhD program

ADMISSION

Eligibility. Doctor of Pharmacy students interested in pursuing research opportunities offered by the Honors Program must be in the first year of the professional program and be in good academic standing as determined by the College's Student Progress Committee. Good academic standing is defined as having successfully passed all courses with no decisions by the Student Progress Committee to put a student on probation or decertify a student from the Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

Application. Completed applications must be submitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Committee to Ms. Kathleen McDonnell (kathleen.mcdonnell@wsu.edu), by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2017. The application, which will be sent to students, must include a current curriculum vitae or resume and an essay that addresses:

- 1) Why the student is interested in pursuing research, including future career goals
- 2) What topic/research question the student is interested in studying
- 3) Who potential faculty mentors would be (if known at the time of submission; can be determined later if not fully clear at the time of application)
- 4) What relevant research-related experience the student has had, if any
- 5) Personal background (including extracurricular activities, community service, leadership activities, and work and volunteer experiences).

Interview. As part of the application process, competitive applicants must interview with potential mentors through the College of Pharmacy.

Acceptance. Admission to the Honors Program is competitive and depends on the number of research opportunities available each year as well as the number of qualified applicants. Application to the program therefore does not guarantee acceptance to the program. Applicants will be notified by the College of Pharmacy Honors Committee of their acceptance into the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program. Unless a faculty research mentor has been previously identified, successful applicants must work with the Honors Committee to facilitate a positive match with a faculty research mentor in the Honors Program. Students are encouraged to discuss potential research projects with faculty research mentors prior to applying for admission to the Honors Program to help get a better idea of program expectations and ensure the program is the right fit.

PROGRESS AND RETENTION

Academic Standing. Students admitted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program must be in good academic standing as determined at the end of each semester by the College's Student Progress Committee.

Research Project. Students admitted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program must complete an Honors research project. Each research project must be developed through discussions with the faculty research mentor and approved by the Honors Committee. Students are expected to meet regularly with faculty mentors and once during the academic year with the Honors Committee. Research projects must be completed during the spring semester of the third professional year, prior to advancing to the fourth professional year advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE rotations).

Enrollment in Upper Division or Graduate Level Courses. Students admitted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program must work with their faculty research mentor to identify an upper division or graduate level course that contributes to their specific area of research or expands the student's general knowledge of research. Appropriate courses include those that emphasize research methods and/or ethics. To satisfy this course requirement of the Honors Program, students will be expected to register for, enroll in, and successfully complete a minimum of 3 credits. All courses must be approved by the Honors Committee. These credits also count toward elective credits for the Pharm.D. program;

Honors Program students are not required to take a greater number of elective credits than are required for the Pharm.D. program.

Presentation of Research. Students admitted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Honors Program must give an oral presentation that includes background, rationale and process/design of the project to other students in the Honors Program and interested faculty by the end of PY2 spring semester.

A final oral presentation of research findings will be scheduled prior to starting the advanced pharmacy practice experiences in the fourth professional year.

Consequences for Failure to Meet Requirements as Established by the Honors Committee. Students who fail to meet the requirements of the Honors Program, as described above, may be dismissed from the program or put on probation until the requirements can be met. In the event a student believes that a decision of the Honors Committee is unfair or unjustified, the student is entitled to appeal the decision to the Student Progress Committee. Students whose appeals are successful will be reinstated into the Honors Program; students whose appeals are not successful will be permanently dismissed from the Honors Program. Any student who is dismissed from the Honors Program may continue to do research with the faculty mentor but may not graduate with an honors distinction upon graduation from the College of Pharmacy.

GRADUATION

Students wishing to graduate with honors distinction from the Honors Program must

- Be in good standing (no stopping of progression by the College's Student Progress Committee)
- Give an oral presentation by the end of second professional year spring semester
- Present written research/scholarly findings to the Honors Committee during the third professional year spring semester
- Present an oral seminar of the Honors project to the mentor, Honors Committee, and other interested faculty and students by the end of third professional year spring semester

Students who successfully complete all of the requirements described above will graduate with an honors distinction that will be recognized during the commencement ceremony and noted on their transcript.