College of Pharmacy co-enrolled Pharm.D./Ph.D. Program

Co-enrollment in Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degree programs in the OSU College of Pharmacy is offered to students seeking to advance translational research in pharmacy. Practitioners possessing both degrees will be able to bring an understanding of molecular pharmaceutical sciences to contemporary pharmacy practice, and consequently broaden opportunities for advances in healthcare research. Co-enrollment will allow full exploration of patient care aspects of a professional degree, while preparing students to address critical questions that will advance fundamental research. The ability to design and analyze foundational research that addresses pressing patient care issues is critical as we attempt to advance healthcare quality in the future.

For the purposes of this document, “professional” refers to the Pharm.D. degree program and “graduate” refers to the pharmacy Ph.D. program.

General Requirements for entry and progression in both degree programs:

- Admission into the professional Pharm.D. program.
- Completion of a B.S. or B.A. degree before entry into the Ph.D. program.
- Acceptance into the Ph.D. graduate program in the College of Pharmacy through the OSU Graduate School.
- A cumulative 3.0 GPA in all graduate level courses and all professional courses attempted.
- Satisfactory review of performance each academic year for continued enrollment in the Pharm.D. / Ph.D. program.

General Curricular guidelines:

Students interested in co-enrollment should make contact with the graduate program assistant, Ms. Debra Peters (Debra.Peters@oregonstate.edu), as early as possible to initiate application to the Graduate School.

Co-enrollment is designed to accelerate sequential completion of the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degrees. As noted below, students are expected to complete the Pharm.D. degree within 4-5 years and to complete the Ph.D. degree within an additional 3 years. The exact length of time required to complete the Ph.D. is dependent, in part, on the nature and success of the student’s thesis research project.

Professional program curriculum

P1 and P2 years (1st and 2nd year of program):

Students are enrolled in the traditional professional curriculum. Several professional didactic courses may be used for partial fulfillment of didactic components of the graduate program of study. Students are encouraged to use electives in the professional curriculum to complete required graduate courses.

Before enrolling in the P3 professional year, it is expected that the student will have completed some or all of the Ph.D.-required research rotations. Options for completion of the research rotations include:

a. Students may complete research rotations (6 weeks, full-time) in summers before and after the P1 year, and after the P2 year. This would be the most accelerated option as a student could begin thesis work in winter of the P4 year.
b. Students may complete up to 2 research rotations as elective advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) during the P4 year (see below). In this scenario, at least one research rotation would need to be completed in a summer prior to the P3 year. Thesis work could commence in summer after the P4 year.

c. Students may complete research rotations during the academic year (10 weeks, part-time) following their P2 year. This option will interrupt progress in the Pharm.D. curriculum for one year. Students will complete the traditional Pharm.D. P3 year after completing research rotations and all graduate coursework.

**P3 year:**
Students enroll in the traditional professional curriculum during the P3 year.

**P4 year (Experiential rotations):**
The professional curriculum requires five patient care clerkship rotations and two elective rotations. The Director of Advanced Experiential Education will work with students to schedule patient care rotations in Blocks 1 – 5 allowing completion of these rotations by the end of January. The student will begin research in support of their Ph.D. program in blocks 6 and 7. Research in support of the Ph.D. program will be accepted as elective APPEs required for the completion of the Pharm.D. program.

The student, graduate advisor and Director of Advanced Experiential Education may collectively agree to extend the time period over which a student enrolls in and completes patient care clerkship rotations. The Pharm.D. degree will be awarded upon successful completion of all required and elective APPEs.

**Graduate Program Curriculum**
Pharm.D. students seeking co-enrollment in the graduate program must apply to the OSU Graduate School for acceptance. Students may apply as soon as possible following notification of their acceptance into the professional program, but can apply at any time during the Pharm.D. program. Earlier enrollment provides more opportunities for acceleration of the graduate program. We do not have a program for initiation of the Pharm.D. program partway through a graduate program. After admission and matriculation into both the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. programs in pharmacy, enrollment each term in courses required for either degree program will be accepted as satisfying the OSU Graduate School’s continuous enrollment policy.

**Graduate Research Rotations:**
Students are expected to select three laboratories engaged in research of interest to the student and complete a research rotation in each laboratory, registering for a minimum of 5 credits of Phar 601 for each rotation. As noted under the description of the professional curriculum, these rotations can be completed in summers, beginning as early as the summer before beginning the professional curriculum. Alternatively, a student may choose to spend the academic year following the P2 professional year completing research rotations and all graduate coursework. This will delay enrollment in the P3 professional year, becoming year 4 of the student’s overall program.
**Didactic coursework:**
The Ph.D. degree course requirements include all of the discipline-specific course requirements for pharmacy and may include Graduate Council approved 700-level courses completed during or after the Pharm.D. portion of the program. Specific didactic course requirements will be determined by each student’s graduate thesis committee.

Courses for fulfillment of graduate degree requirements may be completed at any time. It is important to note that professional program course requirements are substantial and it will be challenging to add graduate level courses to a full professional course load*. As needed, graduate level courses, that are not also professional courses, will be completed following completion of the professional curriculum. Students that choose to complete research rotations during the third academic year are expected to use that year to complete most of the remaining graduate courses

(*If a student has already completed biochemistry before admission to the professional program, they are strongly encouraged to pursue additional graduate level courses during the first professional year)

**Graduate Committee and Graduate Examinations**
Students are encouraged to identify a graduate advisor and laboratory immediately upon completion of research rotations. The graduate committee should be selected and a Program committee meeting held within one term after selecting a graduate advisor. Preliminary examinations should be completed within one quarter of completing didactic coursework (usually before or during the sixth academic year).

**Thesis Research and Completion of Ph.D. degree**
Students are expected to commence thesis-related research immediately upon selecting a graduate advisor and laboratory. It is understood that the time available for a student to work on thesis-related research may be severely limited during completion of the professional program. While completing professional program requirements, however, the student should meet regularly with their graduate advisor, attend laboratory meetings when possible and conduct preliminary experiments. The student’s research goal, while completing the professional curriculum, should be to become current in their chosen area of research and identify a general thesis topic.

Completion of the professional degree should be accompanied by a full time commitment to thesis-related research on a topic developed while completing the professional degree. Students will conduct research under the direction of their graduate advisor and defend their thesis at an appropriate time, as determined by their graduate advisor and graduate committee. It is anticipated that most students will be engaged actively in research for approximately two years following completion of their preliminary examination. The Ph.D. degree is awarded upon successful defense of the student’s thesis.