



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Professional Elective Courses in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program

To fulfill requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree, students in the professional degree program must complete a minimum of **six (6) professional elective credit hours** that further develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in professional areas of interest.

Students select their six professional electives from a broad range of courses to personalize their education through individualized plans of study and/or to fulfill requirements in focused areas of concentration. There is considerable flexibility in course selection, including mentored research or special topics coursework with faculty supervision.

To fulfill program requirements, six (6) credit hours of professional elective courses must be taken concurrently with the professional program (during P-1 through P-3 professional years including summer term options following P-1 and P-2 years). Course credits completed prior to enrolling in the School of Pharmacy cannot fulfill professional credit hour requirements. Elective courses cannot be scheduled if class time conflicts with any required PharmD core course in any professional year. The elective credits must be completed with the PharmD curriculum and before entry into Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs).

The PharmD Curriculum Committee has pre-approved elective Pitt Pharmacy courses and selected course offerings from other University of Pittsburgh schools and other colleges/universities that meet the requirements as a professional elective for student pharmacists. Students should consult Pitt Pharmacy approved elective courses (<https://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/pharmd-student-handbook/pharmd-handbook-curriculum#elective>) and the course catalog offering the courses for term-specific availability of courses.

Students may request approval for courses not listed on the Pitt Pharmacy electives pre-approved list to be considered as professional electives. The courses must reflect an appropriate educational level to qualify for approval (example, University of Pittsburgh courses numbered 1000 and above). Students should plan ahead to assure courses are available and to seek the necessary course-specific approval while meeting university add/drop registration deadlines.

The Curriculum Committee Vice Chair is responsible for reviewing the submitted materials to determine if the proposed elective can be approved. In these cases, the student must provide to the Pitt Pharmacy Registrar and Vice Chair:

- **Request for Pharmacy Elective Credit for a Non-School of Pharmacy Course Form** (available on the school website link _____)
- Course materials including syllabus and course description
- Rationale relating the course objectives to the student's professional development and curriculum outcomes.

Students who wish to select approved professional elective courses at other universities are responsible for any financial expenses that are incurred and are responsible financially. Reciprocal tuition arrangements may be available between the University of Pittsburgh and local Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE) member institutions such as Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, and Robert Morris University. Students should consult the Office of the University

Registrar page on Enrollment and may contact the Pitt Pharmacy Registrar for information regarding eligibility.

Revised, July 8, 2024