

New 2015 Pharm.D. Curriculum: Changes in Program Delivery and Student Attendance

New Curriculum Enhances Learning

The faculty in the UF College of Pharmacy approved a new Pharm.D. curriculum to begin in the fall semester 2015. This new curriculum is based on an **integrated teaching methodology** with an emphasis on **case-based learning and other forms of active learning**. The use of case-studies and integration of information from multiple pharmacy disciplines will allow students to learn information in the context that they will use it in actual practice. **Research has shown that this approach enhances learner recall and application of knowledge in practice.**

Modular Format, Active Learning

Courses will be offered in a modular format such that students will complete courses in time blocks that may range from 2 to 8 weeks. A modular format is now common in health professional education where it has been shown to make the learning experience more enjoyable and less stressful. **A flipped model of course content delivery will be implemented for students to view video lectures before coming to class for more active learning sessions** (e.g., team-based learning groups, discussion groups, laboratory sessions, question and answer sessions, case presentations with questions, etc.) Synchronous classroom sessions across all three campuses will be implemented to enhance communication and learning at selected times in some courses.

Professional Skills Laboratory Training

Professional skills labs will be implemented each semester over the first three professional years.

Students value skills lab experiences since it allows them to perform actual pharmacist tasks and responsibilities in a simulated environment, obtain faculty feedback, and develop confidence. Skills labs prepare students for actual practice experiences in the clinical setting. Professional skills lab coursework requires preparation outside of class, including participation in team meetings and attendance during the assigned weekly laboratory session.

In this enriched learning environment – with participation in active learning sessions and in professional skills lab – students at each campus location will devote more time on campus than previous classes that enrolled before 2015. **Students should prepare for a full day on their campus, each day of the week.** Classes across all three campuses will be scheduled with consistent time frames. Students should plan for living arrangements that will allow for convenient travel to campus to participate in required active learning sessions.

Co-curricular Activities Complement Learning

In addition to academic coursework and classes, a variety of required **co-curriculum activities will complement the Pharm.D. educational program**. Students will plan their participation in **student organization service projects and other activities** to acquire “**soft skills**” to enhance individual development of **leadership, communication, interpersonal maturity, teamwork, and self-awareness for life-long learning**. Participation in selected activities is mandatory to meet requirements for the Pharm.D. degree under the new curriculum, and students should be aware that these activities will include some evening or weekend participation.

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