UNT | HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER™

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

UNT SYSTEM COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

PharmD/MS and PharmD/PhD DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2017-2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Policies and procedures set forth in this document pertain to all students pursuing PharmD/MS or PharmD/PhD dual degrees at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC). These policies and procedures are in addition to those of the UNT System College of Pharmacy (SCP) and of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). Thus this PharmD/MS and PharmD/PhD Dual Degree Student Handbook is a supplement to the SCP PharmD Student Handbook and to the GSBS Graduate Student Handbook. Students are referred to those handbooks for general policies of the institution. All students should familiarize themselves with both the Pharmacy School and Graduate School handbooks.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) offers several dual degree programs. The PharmD/MS and PharmD/PhD dual degree program is co-administered by the UNT System College of Pharmacy (SCP) and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). This dual degree program enhances the educational and research missions of UNTHSC, and provides students with greater knowledge and competency in career development and healthcare service.

The PharmD/MS program is typically 5 years in length, and the PharmD/PhD program is typically 7 years in length. The timelines are as following:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
PharmD/MS	PY1	PY2	PY3	MS study	PY4 and MS thesis	N/A	N/A
PharmD/PhD	PY1	PY2	PY3	7 clinical rotations (split into 1 + 2 + 2 + 2 in the summers of years 4 to 7, with the 1st rotation to be research-based) and 4 years of PhD study			

PY, pharmacy curriculum year; N/A, not apply.

The dual degree program expects that PharmD students seeking admission to the program will be seriously interested in the completion of both degrees. This dual degree program makes it possible for students to earn both degrees more quickly than would be possible if each were done separately. The trade-off is that both degrees are received at the end of the program and neither degree can be awarded before the other is completed.

The PharmD/MS and PharmD/PhD dual degree program is designed for a small number of highly motivated and capable PharmD students who have received a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, have completed at least 2 years of PharmD education at SCP with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale, are not currently under academic probation, and have already demonstrated dedication and capability in research through research-oriented elective coursework or volunteer work with UNTHSC faculty members.

PharmD/MS and PharmD/PhD dual degree students pay the standard pharmacy school tuition and fees for the 4 years of PharmD education (for PharmD/PhD dual degree students, the PY4-year tuition is split into 4 summers for 7 clinical rotations). PharmD/PhD dual degree students can expect to be supported by a stipend from GSBS and SCP during the 4 years of PhD study (9 months each year). PharmD/MS dual degree students pay the standard graduate school tuition for the one-year of MS research experience unless discretionary fund is available case by case. Outstanding dual degree students may be assisted with a merit-based fellowship if such opportunities become available. All dual degree program students are eligible for financial aid.

PharmD students may be admitted to the dual degree program during their 2nd or 3rd year of pharmacy education; early application and admission decision will allow the students to take fullest advantage of the dual degree program. Students can begin to take research-oriented elective courses (e.g. PHAR7375 – Special Topics in Pharmacy Research) and GSBS graduate courses before being formally admitted to the dual degree program. However, if the prospective student is not formally admitted to or chooses not to pursue the

MS or PhD degree, courses not previously approved by the SCP PharmD program as electives will not necessarily be counted toward PharmD elective requirements.

Under all circumstances, dual degree students must complete first 3 years of PharmD education before officially become an MS or PhD graduate student. PharmD/MS dual degree students must return to PharmD student status during the 5th year of their dual degree program to complete their PY4 PharmD clinical rotations and to fulfill the thesis requirement of MS degree. PharmD/PhD dual degree students will retain both PharmD student status and graduate student status during the 4 years of dual degree program to complete their 7 clinical rotations and to fulfill the dissertation requirement of PhD degree.

Students in the dual degree program must meet all requirements of both the SCP for the PharmD degree, as well as the GSBS for the MS degree or PhD degree. For each dual degree student, a **Degree Plan** needs to be prepared according to the discipline-specific requirements. All interested parties, *i.e.* the PharmD/MS or PharmD/PhD student, SCP Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, MS or PhD Advisor, SCP Graduate Advisor, Dean of SCP and Dean of GSBS, will participate in formulating the plan of study, and each will sign off the plan indicating concurrence.

Students must demonstrate satisfactory progress each semester toward completion of the requirements of the both programs. Satisfactory progress is defined as meeting the criteria to continue both programs. At minimum, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. If progress is judged unsatisfactory, a written notice of one's deficiencies (first written notice) will be issued, and the student will be placed on academic probation. Failure to remedy the stated deficiencies will result in a second written notice. Failure to improve sufficiently to be removed from academic probation within one semester following receipt of the second written notice will result in dismissal from the dual degree programs.

Eligible and interested SCP PharmD students should apply through GSBS online portal for admission to the PharmD/MS or PharmD/PhD dual degree program. A copy of PCAT test scores can be used in lieu of official report of GRE test scores.

The timeline for application, admission and matriculation is as following:

	UNTHSC Academic Year (e.g. 2016-17 cycle)
Application Deadline	12/31/2017
Admission Decision	01/31/2018
Acceptance/Decline Deadline	02/15/2018
Matriculation	Follow GSBS Academic Calendar (e.g. 08/13-15/2018 for orientation)
First Day of Class	Follow GSBS Academic Calendar (e.g. 08/20/2018)

3. GRADUATE FACULTY

PharmD/MS or PharmD/PhD dual degree students may pursue MS or PhD study with any graduate faculty approved by GSBS.

4. ACADEMIC POLICIES

PharmD phase of education refers to the SCP PharmD Student Handbook; MS and PhD phase of education refers to the general GSBS Graduate Student Handbook and the discipline-specific Graduate Student Handbook.

5. GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS WITH EXEMPTION SPECIFICS

Individual core course can be exempted if the equivalent PHAR course has been taken during the PharmD phase of education:

BMSC 6201 Fundamentals of BMSC 1 (Biochemistry, 2 SCH)
= PHAR 7412 Metabolic Basis for Pharmacotherapy (4 SCH)

BMSC 6204 Fundamentals of BMSC 4 (Integrative Physiology, 2 SCH)
= PHAR 7411 Physiologic Basis for Pharmacotherapy (4 SCH)

6. TENTATIVE TIME-LINE

For PharmD/MS Dual Degree:

Years 1-3: - PharmD PY1-3; Research-oriented Elective Courses

Year 4, Fall:
- Coursework
- Rotations (optional)
- Select a major professor
- Form an advisory committee
- Assignment of a university faculty member to the committee
- Research
- Thesis proposal

Year 4, Spring:
- Fulfill course requirements
- Electives
- Research

Year 4, Summer: - Research

Year 5:
- PharmD PY4
- MS thesis

- MS thesis defense

For PharmD/PhD Dual Degree:

Years 1-3: - PharmD PY1-3; Research-oriented Elective Courses

Year 4, Summer: - Clinical Rotation 1 (research based)

Year 4, Fall:
- Coursework
- Lab rotations (optional)
- Select a major professor
- Form an advisory committee
- Assignment of a university faculty member to the committee
- Research

Year 4, Spring:
- Fulfill course requirements
- Research

Year 5, Summer: - Clinical Rotations 2 and 3

Year 5 Fall:
- Oral Comprehensive Examination
- Research
- Dissertation Proposal

Year 5 Spring: - Research

Year 5 Summer: - Clinical Rotations 4 and 5

Year 6 Fall: - Research

Year 6 Spring: - Research

Year 7 Summer: - Clinical Rotations 6 and 7

Year 7 Fall: - Research

Year 7 Spring:
- Research
- PhD dissertation defense

6. CONTACTS IN SITUATIONS OF UNCERTAINTY OR EMERGENCY

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