

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI • SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Our Mission

The mission of the School of Pharmacy is to be internationally recognized for leadership and innovation in education, research, the delivery of pharmaceutical care, and professional service. We will be pacesetters in student-centered education, and we will continuously assess and refine our curricula to ensure excellence and currency. We will conduct world-class research and serve as a vital resource to research scientists and health care practitioners. We will contribute to enhanced clinical, economic, and humanistic outcomes through advancement of leading-edge medication management and patient care. Through all our missions we will work to stimulate the economy of Mississippi.

Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (RIPS) encompasses two major divisions (The National Center for Natural Products Research [NCNPR] and The Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management [CPMM]). The mission of the NCNPR is to discover, develop, and commercialize natural product-derived pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals to benefit human health and agricultural productivity, and the CPMM promotes efficiency and effectiveness in the marketing and management of pharmaceutical products and services in all segments of the industry. RIPS, by partnering with Mississippi industries to enhance the competitiveness of those industries and by attracting new companies to Mississippi, contributes to the economic development of the state.

Educational Programs

- B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (B.S.P.S.)
- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
- Currently, the pre-professional (pre-pharmacy) program requires a minimum of two years of study and the professional program consists of four academic years. After completion of the initial two years of professional course work, students will receive the B.S.P.S. degree. The Doctor of Pharmacy degree is awarded following completion of two additional years of professional courses. Pre-pharmacy courses may be completed at any accredited 2-year or 4-

year higher education institution. The initial two years of professional courses are taken on the Oxford campus; the third professional year occurs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus. The fourth year consists of a series of advanced practice experiences obtained throughout the Mid-South area.

- Beginning with the entering professional class of 2009, the pre-pharmacy program will require a minimum of three years to complete. The professional program will remain four years in length. However, the B.S.P.S. degree will be awarded after the first, rather than the second, professional year. The four professional years will be conducted at the same locations as currently occurs. The entry/admission process for the professional program is unchanged and can occur either after completion of high school (Early Entry/Early Assurance) or traditionally after completion of the pre-pharmacy program (Regular Entry).
- M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with emphases in Environmental Toxicology, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutics, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology, and Pharmacy Administration
- Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with emphases in Environmental Toxicology, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology, Pharmaceutics, and Pharmacy Administration

Research Programs

The faculty of the School of Pharmacy maintain active, funded research programs in a variety of biomedical, social administrative, and clinical sciences. To support the growing research programs, faculty compete for funding from a variety of sources including the National Institutes of Health, other federal agencies, foundations, and the pharmaceutical industry. The research expertise of faculty covers a spectrum of disciplines including pharmaceutics; medicinal chemistry; pharmacology; toxicology; environmental toxicology; molecular biology; clinical, economic, and humanistic outcomes; pharmaceutical marketing and management; safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of therapeutic agents and treatment approaches; and pharmacy education. Examples of research topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pharmaceutical marketing and management
- Adoption and effectiveness of disease management models in health care
- Innovative educational methods and strategies in pharmacy
- Development of novel drug delivery systems
- Development and testing of new anti-malarials and drugs for emerging infectious diseases
- Pharmacogenomics as applicable to drug design
- Natural products discovery, development, and pharmaceutical applications in the treatment of infectious diseases, inflammation, cancer, and immune disorders
- Authenticity/quality, standardization, and efficacy of botanical dietary supplements
- Potential for adverse effects in wildlife, especially fish, due to exposure to pollutants
- Neurodegenerative disorders and processes and molecular neuropharmacology

Service and Outreach Programs

The School of Pharmacy provides service to citizens and health care professionals through a variety of service and outreach programs. These include provision of:

- Pharmaceutical care at the Jackson Medical Mall, UM Student Health Center Pharmacy, and various other ambulatory, inpatient, and managed care sites
- Drug information to health care professionals
- Continuing education for pharmacists and other professionals through the activities of the Division of Pharmacy Professional Development
- Scientific, management, and leadership expertise to pharmaceutical industries, other academic institutions, community pharmacies, clinics, and medical centers
- Leadership to local, state, and national professional/scientific organizations

Faculty

The School of Pharmacy has 177 faculty members (107 regular, 70 adjunct), plus 205 preceptors that teach at more than 158 sites.

Students

The applicant pool for admission to the professional pharmacy program is strong. Local, national, and international candidates comprise the applicant pool. Preference is given to United States citizens who are residents of Mississippi and to students who have taken their pre-pharmacy course work at the University of Mississippi. The average grade point average (on required courses) of students admitted in the Fall semester of 2007 was 3.60. Approximately 90 students are admitted to the professional pharmacy program annually.

2007-08 Enrollment

428	Pharm.D. students (P1 - P6 students)
207	Pre-pharmacy students
13	M.S. students
91	Ph.D. students
8	Residents

The Challenge Ahead

Over the next five years, the School of Pharmacy must raise significant funds from non-state appropriated sources in order to deliver the quality of education and service programs and to conduct the quality of research to which it is committed. The first capital campaign for the School of Pharmacy is now in the quiet phase. Through the capital campaign, the school is seeking construction funds for a new pharmacy building at the University of Mississippi Medical Center to support the needs of students and faculty. Other key targets of the campaign are scholarship endowments for students and to support the needs of faculty. Funds raised through the annual fund, including the phonathon, support:

Student Aid and Scholarships – Attract increasing numbers of excellent and diverse students by providing additional scholarships and fellowships

Teaching, Learning, and Research Support – Strengthen academic programs and enhance teaching, learning, and research opportunities for students and faculty

Special Opportunities – Obtain unrestricted gifts to be used by the dean of the school for unique education, service, or research opportunities

Administration

Barbara G. Wells, Pharm.D.
Dean

H. Joseph Byrd, Pharm.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Charles D. Hufford, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs

Marvin C. Wilson, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs

Larry A. Walker, Ph.D.
Director of the National Center for Natural Products Research

Noel E. Wilkin, Ph.D.
Director of the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management

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