

Didactic Electives Offerings for McWhorter School of Pharmacy Students- Fall 2022

The McWhorter School of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum requires **two (2) didactic elective courses** to be completed before the end of the third professional year of study and prior to beginning Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs). All electives are 2-credit hours. The fall semester didactic electives are listed below; please ensure you fulfilled any prerequisites. Course descriptions also are presented below. Courses taken prior to enrollment in Samford-McWhorter cannot be counted toward elective requirements in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.

Students enrolled in the Samford-McWhorter / Samford University joint-degree programs (e.g., PharmD/MBA, PharmD/MPH, PharmD/Informatics, PharmD/MS Law, PharmD/Nutrition) can count joint degree program courses to meet their pharmacy didactic elective course requirements. However, these students can still enroll in pharmacy didactic elective courses if they desire. The school is collaborating with other Samford University College of Health Sciences (CHS) faculty to create additional interprofessional electives. Once approved, these will be added to this list.

Students are allowed to complete more than two didactic elective courses if they choose. Extra tuition will NOT be charged to complete more than two didactic elective courses (but cannot exceed 21 credit hours in the semester).

PHRX*	Course Name	Day
458	Pediatric Pharmacotherapy	Tuesday
474	Scientific Writing: The Art of Generating Precise, Concise Technical Documents	Tuesday
486	Introduction to Careers in Pharmacy Academia	Tuesday
481	Ambulatory Care	Wednesday
462	Current Topics in Toxicology	Wednesday
452	Independent Pharmacy Business Plan Development	Thursday
484	Infectious Disease	Thursday
478	Women's Health	Online
460	Research	Lab

*This is the current list of fall P3 elective course offerings. An elective may not be offered specifically if the minimum number of students are not enrolled.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHRX 452 – Independent Pharmacy Business Plan Development

Project-oriented elective that focuses on the fundamentals of owning an independent community practice. Participants will work in groups with existing independent pharmacy owners to write business plans and explored ownership concepts in a real world environment. Consideration is given to the pros and cons of choosing an existing practice vs. establishing a new practice.

PHRX 458 – Pediatric Pharmacotherapy

This elective offers an overview of pediatric pharmacotherapy with a focus on treatment and therapeutic monitoring of common pediatric diseases. **Prerequisite:** Completion of all courses of the second year. A course fee (\$30) will be charged to students enrolled in this elective.

PHRX 460-01 – Research

This elective applies literature and laboratory techniques or other methods of scientific investigation to pharmaceutical problems. Students choose to study and investigate a synthetic route in the design of a drug or develop a quantitative assay procedure for a known chemical entity. **Prerequisite:** Professional GPA of at least 2.5.

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PHRX 460-02, -03, -04, -05 – Research

This elective is designed to provide the student with directed research experience on specific topics in pharmaceutical sciences. These topics are generally focused on characterization and evaluation of new or existing therapeutic agents, bioanalytical methodology for drug measurement, novel platforms and routes of administration. Students will gain hands-on experiences with *in vitro* bioanalytical sample preparation and analysis techniques. **Prerequisite:** Professional GPA of at least 2.5.

PHRX 462 – Current Topics in Toxicology

Primary instructors: Ann Slattery from The Regional Poison Control Center at the Children’s Hospital in Birmingham. This elective covers common biologic, chemical and drug poisonings. Learn signs and symptoms, mechanisms of action, and toxicokinetics of various toxicants. Highlights “state of the science” treatment modalities. Includes site visit to local poison control center.

PHRX 474 – Scientific Writing: The Art of Generating Precise, Concise Technical Documents

This elective course aims to teach the fundamentals of effective scientific writing and coach students through the process of producing a technical document. Instruction will focus primarily on the steps of writing and publishing scientific manuscripts but other documents such as FDA drug safety and enforcement reports will also be addressed. The course will be presented in two segments: Part 1 will instruct the students to write concisely and clearly, whereas Part 2 will focus on the preparation of an actual scientific manuscript. Students are expected to attend a weekly lecture and to complete short writing and editing exercises, including production of a scientific abstract. Students will eventually develop a manuscript of their choice and will meet periodically with the instructor for individual editing sessions.

PHRX 478 – Women’s Health: A Focus on Select Gynecologic and Obstetric Disorders

This elective is designed to provide an overview of gynecologic and obstetric disorders. Emphasis will be placed on medication therapy used for these disorders (e.g., PCOS, infertility, fibroids, uterine & ovarian cancer, disorders during pregnancy [hypertension, diabetes, thromboembolism], labor & delivery/post-partum care & issues, lactation & breastfeeding).

PHRX 481 –Ambulatory Care

This elective is designed to introduce students to the expanding role of the ambulatory care pharmacist. Focus will be on designing and developing ambulatory care pharmacy services through developing a business plan, assessing and appropriately educating the ambulatory care patient, as well as educating health care professionals. Students will be introduced to various ambulatory care practice settings and will be given the opportunity to interact and collaborate with local ambulatory care pharmacists and/or residents. Throughout the course, students will be expected to participate in active learning coursework to further develop communication skills, problem solving, and team dynamics. The general format of the class will be open forum discussion with an emphasis on student participation. The class will consist of both lecture and case-based studies.

PHRX 484 – Infectious Diseases

This elective focuses on commonly encountered infectious diseases in both the inpatient and outpatient settings and is intended to provide students an opportunity to expand their knowledge of infectious diseases. This course includes information on mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance, microbiological testing, and commonly encountered infections. Small group debates are included to enhance the student’s understanding of formulary decisions as well as enable the student to defend an antimicrobial selection. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills and presentation skills which can be applied to pharmacy practice in both institutional and community settings. **Prerequisite:** PHRX 404 and PHRX 406.

PHRX 486 –Introduction to Careers in Pharmacy Academia

This elective orients students to terminology, teaching, assessment, and interviewing strategies related to faculty positions at schools/colleges of pharmacy. Professional communication and professional development will be highlighted throughout the course.