

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

PCOM Georgia

Department website: <https://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/doctor-of-pharmacy/>

Philosophy

The PCOM School of Pharmacy curriculum emphasizes patient centered care, a model consistent with the applied emphasis of PCOM's graduate and medical programs. PCOM School of Pharmacy (SOP) is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of diverse communities in society by training students to become collaborative healthcare team members, advocates and leaders in pharmacy. The SOP achieves its mission through advancement of contemporary pharmacy practice, interprofessional education, patient-centered care, innovative research, commitment to service, and lifelong personal and professional development. The program also responds to the need for pharmacists in the nation, the state of Georgia and the southeastern region. The program educates pharmacists who prepare and provide drug products and assume responsibility for the rational use of drugs by contributing to the design, implementation, monitoring and modification of therapeutic plans that will achieve defined goals and improve therapeutic outcomes.

School of Pharmacy Goals

The PCOM School of Pharmacy defines operational goals to achieve its Mission through the following metrics of success:

1. Attraction and recruitment of student learners with the commitment and capability to advance the profession of pharmacy
2. On-time graduation of learners enrolled in the PharmD program
3. Graduates are employed in the field of their choice immediately upon graduation
4. Faculty and staff are committed and motivated to the success of PCOM
5. Continued growth of community partnerships with the capacity for shared contributions in human health and wellness
6. Evidence of leadership and innovation in the advancement of the pharmacy profession and human health
7. Graduates are engaged alumni and leaders of the pharmacy profession who would choose PCOM again

Curricular Outcomes and Entrustable Professional Activities (COEPA)

In January 2025, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia Campus School of Pharmacy adopted and updated the 2022 Curricular Outcomes and Entrustable Professional Activities (COEPA) as the program's educational outcomes (EOs). These EOs serve as a foundation to guide the curricular design, delivery, and review processes and are assessed within the School of Pharmacy's comprehensive Assessment Plan.

1. Knowledge

1. **Scientific Thinking (Learner):** Seek, analyze, integrate, and apply foundational knowledge of medications and pharmacy practice (biomedical; pharmaceutical; social, behavioral, administrative; and clinical sciences; drug classes; and digital health).

2. Skills

2.1 Problem-solving Process (Problem-solver): Use problem solving and critical thinking skills, along with an innovative mindset, to address challenges and to promote positive change.

2.2 Communication Communicator: Actively engage, listen, and communicate verbally, nonverbally, and in writing when interacting with or educating an individual, group, or organization.

2.3 Cultural and Structural Humility (Ally): Mitigate health disparities by considering, recognizing, and navigating cultural and structural factors (e.g. social determinants of health, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility) to improve access and health outcomes.

2.4 Person-centered Care (Provider): Provide whole person care and comprehensive medication management to individuals as the medication specialist using the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process.

2.5 Advocacy Advocate: Promote the best interests of patients and/or the pharmacy profession within healthcare settings and at the community, state, or national level.

2.6 Medication-use Process Stewardship (Steward): Optimize patient healthcare outcomes using human, financial, technological, and physical resources to improve the safety, efficacy, and environmental impact of medication use systems.

2.7 Interprofessional Collaboration (Collaborator): Actively engage and contribute as a healthcare team member by demonstrating core interprofessional competencies.

2.8 Population Health and Wellness (Promoter): Assess factors that influence the health and wellness of a population and develop strategies to address those factors.

2.9 Leadership (Leader): Demonstrate the ability to influence and support the achievement of shared goals on a team, regardless of one's role.

3. Attitudes

3.1 Self-awareness (Self-aware): Examine, reflect on, and address personal and professional attributes (e.g., knowledge, metacognition, skills, abilities, beliefs, biases, motivation, help-seeking strategies, and emotional intelligence that could enhance or limit growth, development, & professional identity formation).

3.2 Professionalism (Professional): Exhibit attitudes and behaviors that embody a commitment to building and maintaining trust with patients, colleagues, other health care professionals, and society.

Our program incorporates active learning, interdisciplinary education and problem solving skills, affording our students the ability to practice in an ever-changing and lifelong learning profession. Students will also be exposed to and encouraged to gain specialized training in residency or fellowship programs to prepare them for careers in other areas such as specialized clinical practice, research, pharmaceutical industry or academia.

The program is configured in a curricular format in which students complete:

- the pre-professional phase (three or four years) of general education,
- biomedical and sciences instruction at undergraduate colleges the last four professional years of pharmaceutical sciences, and
- pharmacy practice instruction at the PCOM GA facility, as well as
- clinical experiences at clinical sites throughout Georgia and the southeast.

Corresponding to the academic calendar used by PCOM academic programs in Philadelphia, Georgia and South Georgia The extension of coursework over the two semesters (16 weeks each) of each academic year provides the opportunity for the across-the-curriculum development of skills.

The curriculum is composed of courses in:

- biomedical,
- pharmaceutical,
- social/behavioral/administrative, and
- clinical sciences.

Two elective specialty track concentrations are available to allow students to enhance their knowledge of pharmacy related topics in specific speciality areas.

There are four Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) in which students are given exposure to pharmacy practice in a variety of different specialty areas and begin their hands-on clinical experiences. The final year of the program consists of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) in which students are required to complete eight different rotations. These rotations consist of five weeks in a particular pharmacy practice site.

Required rotations are:

- General Medicine
- Ambulatory Care
- Hospital Practice
- Community Practice

Elective rotations will include rotations such as (but not limited to):

- Community Management
- Cardiology
- Infectious Diseases Pediatrics
- Compounding Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Industry Management

A milestone progression examination course will be given during the first, second, and third professional years. These examinations assess knowledge and skills acquired during the curriculum. Students that do not pass the milestone progression exam will be allowed to take a remediation exam. Failure to pass the remediation examination will prevent a student from progressing to the next professional year or graduating late and may result in dismissal from the program.

This curriculum, including active learning skills development time, is designed to develop the knowledge, professional skills, professional attitudes and values that are required for an entry-level pharmacist.

Requirements for Graduation

Each candidate for the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) must be of good moral character and have completed satisfactorily all academic

requirements in the program of study. All requirements for the degree must be completed within **six years** from the date of initial matriculation.

PharmD graduates must demonstrate that they have acquired competency in six basic areas of:

- knowledge,
- skills,
- abilities,
- behaviors and attitudes:
 - pharmacy knowledge and practice skills,
 - patient care skills,
 - communication/interpersonal skills,
 - professionalism,
 - understanding and skills in the use of information and empirical evidence, and
 - skills in systems-based practice.

Licensure

In general, in order for candidates to take the pharmacist licensure examination, state boards of pharmacy will require successful completion of the requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited institution. In Georgia, applicants for pharmacist licensure must be at least 18 years of age, have graduated from an ACPE-accredited school/college of pharmacy. PCOM Schools of pharmacy allow students to claim credit for 1,440 hours obtained during experiential rotations (IPPES and APPEs). An applicant may register with the Georgia Board of Pharmacy as a pharmacy intern if he or she is registered in an accredited school/college of pharmacy. All students at the PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus are required to obtain their Georgia intern license during the first term, and the School will assist with the application process. Any student found to be ineligible to be licensed as a pharmacy intern in the state of Georgia, at any time during his or her tenure at the PCOM School of Pharmacy – Georgia Campus, will be dismissed from the program. PCOM students must maintain their intern license in order to legally participate in the experiential pharmacy rotations. The licensure requirements for pharmacists and pharmacy interns vary by state, and it is recommended that applicants inquire with the board of pharmacy in the state where they intend to practice if they have any questions.

First Year

Term 1		Hours
Fall		
PHAR 010	Portfolio I	.05
PHAR 110	Anatomy & Physiology and Pathophysiology I	4
PHAR 117	Principles of Drug Action I	4
PHAR 127	Pharmaceutical Calculations	3
PHAR 130	Pharmacy Practice I: Introduction to Pharmacy	2
PHAR 150	Patient Care Skills Lab I (Counseling & Communication)	1
PHAR 135	Integrated Case Studies I	1
PHAR 140	Professional Development I	.05
PHAR 112	Biochemistry W/ Clinical Correlation	3
INDP 101A	Interprofessional Approach to Caring for the Community I	.15
Hours		18.25
Term 2		

PHAR 151	Patient Care Skills Lab II (Compounding)	1
PHAR 011	Portfolio II	.05
PHAR 141	Professional Development II	.05
PHAR 111	Anatomy & Physiology and Pathophysiology II	4
PHAR 118	Principles of Drug Action II	4
PHAR 128	Biostatistics & Drug Information	3
PHAR 125	Over The Counter (OTC)	2
PHAR 136	Integrated Case Studies II	1
PHAR 199	Milestone Progression Exam I	.05
PHAR 132	Pharmaceutics	3
INDP 101B	Interprofessional Approach to Caring for the Community II	.10

Hours 18.25

Second Year

Term 1

Summer

PHAR 174	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Community I	1
PHAR 175	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Community II	1

Hours 2

Term 2

Fall

PHAR 212	Biopharmaceutics	3
PHAR 215	Personalized Medicine (Pharmacogenomics and Care Across Life Span)	2
PHAR 216	Health Care Delivery, Systems & Policy	2
PHAR 217	Principles of Drug Action III (Pharmacology & Immunology)	3
PHAR 245	Pharmacotherapy Case Studies I	1
PHAR 210	Pharmacotherapy I	6
PHAR 250	Patient Care Skills Lab III (Patient Assessment)	1
PHAR 012	Portfolio III	.05
PHAR 240	Professional Development III	.05
INDP 201A	Interprofessional Approach to Caring the Community III	.15

Hours 18.25

Term 3

Spring

PHAR 013	Portfolio IV	.05
PHAR 220	Public and Population Health, Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacoeconomics	2
PHAR 222	Pharmacy Administration and Management	2
PHAR 218	Principles of Drug Action IV (Microbiology & Infectious Disease)	4
PHAR 246	Pharmacotherapy Case Studies II	1
PHAR 251	Patient Care Skills Lab IV (Aseptic Techniques)	1
PHAR 211	Pharmacotherapy II	6
PHAR 299	Milestone Progression Exam II	.05
PHAR 230	Pharmacy Practice II: Medication Use Systems, Care Transitions and Informatics	2
PHAR 241	Professional Development IV	.05

INDP 201B	Interprofessional Approach to Caring the Community IV	.10
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Hours 18.1

Third Year

Term 1

Summer

PHAR 171	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Clinical II	1
PHAR 170	Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Clinical I	1

Hours 2

Term 2

Fall

Students will take 2 elective courses in Fall, for a total of 2 credits of electives.		2
PHAR 345	Pharmacotherapy Case Studies III	1
PHAR 340	Professional Development V	.05
PHAR 014	Portfolio V	.05
PHAR 316	Research Methods, Evidence Based Practice and Literature Evaluation	2
PHAR 319	Integrated Safety and Toxicology	2
PHAR 309	Pharmacotherapy III	6
PHAR 323	Basic & Clinical Pharmacokinetics	3
PHAR 356	Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) Readiness I	1
INDP 301A	Interprofessional Approach to Caring the Community V	.15

Hours 17.15

Term 3

Spring

Students will take 2 elective courses in Spring, for a total of 2 credits of electives.		2
PHAR 310	Pharmacotherapy IV	6
PHAR 320	Pharmacy Law & Ethics	3
PHAR 314	Complementary and Alternate Medicine (CAM)	2
PHAR 399	Milestone Progression Exam III	.05
PHAR 015	Portfolio VI	.05
PHAR 341	Professional Development VI	.05
PHAR 346	Pharmacotherapy Case Studies IV	1
PHAR 357	Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) Readiness II	2
INDP 301B	Interprofessional Approach to Caring the Community VI	.10

Hours 16

Fourth Year

Term 1

Summer, Fall, Spring

Students take 8 five credit Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Courses (APPE PHAR 4XXG) in their fourth year Summer-Spring, including one off block, and 2 credits of Capstone in Fall and Spring. There are four Experience courses that are mandatory below:		20
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PHAR 410G	Advanced Community Pharmacy	5
PHAR 420G	Advanced Health Systems Pharmacy	5

PHAR 430G	Advanced Ambulatory Care	5
PHAR 450G	Advanced Inpatient Acute Care and Diverse Populations	5
PHAR 499A	Capstone I	1
PHAR 499B	Capstone II	1
Hours		42
Total Hours		152