

Pharmacy, MS

Requirements

The Master of Science in pharmacy requires at least 30 s.h. of credit, which may include 9 s.h. of research. At least 24 s.h. must be completed at the University of Iowa after admission to a graduate program. Requirements for the master's degree include a final examination which, at the discretion of department, may be written or oral or both. The final examination will not duplicate course examinations. Various forms of extramural registration may qualify toward the 24 s.h. residence requirement. A master's degree can typically be earned in 3–4 semesters.

The Master of Science in pharmacy requires mastery of methodologies and practices of research and scholarship of the discipline. MS degrees may be designed to provide advanced study and accomplishment that serves a variety of career and other purposes. A thesis describing original scholarship or research may be required. No more than 9 s.h. of credit for thesis research and writing is counted toward the 30 s.h. requirement.

Three subprograms are available: drug discovery and experimental therapeutics, health services research, and pharmaceuticals.

The drug discovery and experimental therapeutics curriculum provides a strong foundational base of knowledge along with options for a tailored experience for students. The thesis requirement provides an opportunity for engagement in cutting-edge scholarship, ongoing mentorship, and collaborative research interactions with multiple labs.

The health services research subprogram provides an innovative approach to studying the challenges facing the health care system and provides evidence to support policy-based solutions. The subprogram combines ideas across several distinct scientific paradigms (sociology, economics, psychology, business, and anthropology) to better understand the factors leading to decisions in health care and the consequences of these decisions. Students gain broad knowledge of health and pharmaceutical care, informed by theories from economics and social psychology. The subprogram teaches intellectual and practical skills to investigate research questions dealing with current issues.

The pharmaceuticals subprogram is a multidisciplinary science that examines the development, production, and characterization of dosage forms, as well as the disposition and action of drugs in the body. As pharmaceutical scientists have been engaged in the development of novel biomaterials for sophisticated drug delivery systems, they also have expanded into research with applications in the development of medical devices and tissue engineering.

For more information about graduate study, visit the College of Pharmacy website.