

**Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Wayne State University  
Doctor of Pharmacy Elective Course Explanation and Selection Process**

Reflecting Elective Policy Approved by Pharmacy Faculty on: 8/25/2016

**Purpose**

The purpose of elective courses is to provide pharmacy students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of pharmacy in areas not covered or covered in limited depth in required pharmacy courses. The elective offerings are designed to enable students to identify and strengthen areas of interest to better prepare them to meet their career objectives.

**Elective Requirements**

All PharmD students must successfully complete a minimum of six credits of approved elective coursework, distributed over at least three separate courses, prior to the entry of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential education. Students may take a maximum of one directed study course and must fulfill additional elective credits through didactic coursework. Scheduling of the courses is described below. Coursework completed prior to entry into the PharmD program will not be accepted for elective credit. This policy applies to students taking pharmacy elective coursework. Students enrolled in the Research Scholars Program should refer to course requirements to be taken in lieu of pharmacy elective courses.

**Elective Course Types**

Two types of elective courses are available; directed studies and didactic electives.

1. Directed study elective course

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Students work under the direct supervision of a member of the faculty on a project-based, customized learning experience with clearly stated objectives. Student time commitments should conform to the University credit hour policy for individual study (IND). Students may register for a maximum of one 2-hour directed study course which may be taken any semester beginning Winter P2 through Winter P3 semester. A list of faculty-offered directed studies with descriptions of the work involved, will be made available to students. In addition, an open forum will be held at least once each year at which faculty may present information relative to their specific directed study opportunities. Prior to registration, students are required to meet with faculty offering a particular directed study to ascertain the nature of the directed study offering, as well as faculty expectations of the student.

2. Didactic elective course

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this document, the term “faculty” is intended to include all persons holding regular, adjunct, part-time, or emeritus appointments in Pharmacy.

Didactic elective courses typically have regularly scheduled class meetings and will consist of components of lecture/discussion/active learning with examinations and/or other means of performance evaluation applied. Student time commitments should conform to the University credit hour policy for classroom contact, based on the course code type. Didactic elective courses may be taken any semester beginning Spring/Summer following P2 through Winter P3 semester.

### **Elective Course Availability**

A list of approved elective courses will be made available to students and faculty at the beginning of each Fall semester for courses that will be offered from the Spring through the winter of the following year. Students may select from courses on this list. Changes to the elective course list may be warranted and will be communicated to students.

In order to provide students with a broad range of professional elective courses, the PharmD program should set a goal of offering a minimum of fourteen didactic elective courses with 20 seats each, seven courses from each Pharmacy department per year.

### **Faculty Advising and Elective Course Selection**

All P2 students, as a component of their faculty advisor meeting for the Fall semester, will be required to discuss elective planning. The discussion should include elective planning across the didactic portion of the curriculum – spanning Winter P2 (eligible for directed study only), Spring/Summer P2, Fall P3, and Winter P3. By the end of the second week of classes in the Winter semester, each P2 student must submit a ranked list of their elective choices in order of their preference. A minimum number of five electives must be listed, but a student may also rank more elective offerings.

### **Elective Course Enrollment Process**

Students will be assigned to six didactic credits with an effort to meet students' preferences as much as possible (typically three elective didactic courses OR two didactic electives if the student has opted to participate in one directed study course), with priority seats being given to those students who submit their rankings by the rank deadline. If more students select a course than there are seats available, the excess number of students will be assigned to a prioritized wait list for the course. If a seat(s) become available, the next student(s) on the list will be informed. Students failing to submit a prioritized ranking will be assigned to elective courses based on open seats.

During the applicable registration period, students must enroll in their assigned didactic elective courses and directed study. Students may request changes to a submitted prioritized list, but such changes must be requested prior to the start of registration for a specific semester. Changes to elective priority list or desire to drop an elective course must be discussed with and documented by their faculty advisor. If a student wishes to drop an elective course, they must identify if there are seats open in another elective course prior to meeting with their faculty advisor. The student must obtain a signature from the coordinator of the course being dropped and the coordinator of the course being added prior to obtaining their faculty advisor's signature.

If a student's faculty advisor is unavailable for meeting or signatures, the student will obtain needed signatures from their advisor's department chair.

## **Pharm.D. Elective Courses: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why are electives included in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum?**

Elective courses are designed to allow students to explore areas of interest in a depth not possible throughout the general curriculum. In addition, elective courses are intended to allow students to expand their knowledge and skills to help improve preparation for the career track each intends to pursue.

### **What are the elective requirements in the Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum?**

Students will complete 14 credit hours of electives during the Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Six credits of Pre-APPE didactic/directed study course work must be taken by the end of the P3 year and two elective advanced practice rotations (4 credits each) are taken in the P4 year. Pre-APPE didactic elective coursework can be taken beginning spring/summer after completing P2 winter semester, and must be completed by the end of P3 winter semester. Adequate time is provided within the curriculum in the Fall and Winter semester of the P3 year to accommodate elective completion. A maximum of 2 credits can be taken as a Directed Study course(s). Pre-APPE directed study course work can be taken as early as the beginning Winter P2 semester. In the P4 year, students are provided the opportunity to take 2 advanced practice rotations (4 credits each) as electives. The offerings available for these electives will be provided to the students as they are requesting their P4 advanced practice experiences.

### **What students have an exception from the pharmacy elective policy?**

Students enrolled in the following programs will fulfill all of their elective requirements through those respective programs.

- a. Research Scholars program
- b. Graduate Certificate in Public Health
- c. Graduate Certificate in Business

See the information applying to those specific program requirements in the Curriculum Section of the Doctor of Pharmacy program website.

### **Can a student in one of the of the programs that are excepted from the elective policy take other didactic elective courses?**

Yes. Students enrolled in the Research Scholars Program, Graduate Certificate in Public Health or the Graduate Certificate in Business can take additional didactic elective courses. However, taking other didactic elective courses would be over and above fulfilling the requirements of either program.

### **What is the process for students to submit their elective preferences?**

In the fall of the P2 year, students will be given a list of the electives available for their P3 year. During the Fall P2 semester, each student is required to discuss their individual interests and

career goals when they meet with their faculty advisor. The discussion should include elective planning across the didactic portion of the curriculum. During the Winter P2 semester, students must submit a ranked preference of at least 5 elective courses by the end of the second week of classes. (The form for submission is at the bottom of this document) Students will be assigned to elective courses based on preferences and availability. Upon notification of their placement, students will register to the assigned elective courses accordingly.

### **How will didactic elective courses be assigned?**

Elective courses will be assigned by a lottery system (similar to the assignment of APPEs during the P4 year). Special attention will be paid to a student's first choice and preference will be given to students who submit their rankings in a timely manner. The process will fairly balance preferences and seat availability and will assure that students complete their required electives prior to the beginning of the P4 year. After the assignments of electives are made, students remain responsible for registering for the assigned elective.

### **Can courses offered in other programs at Wayne State University be taken for elective credit?**

Students may take elective courses that are offered by other programs at Wayne State University. Coursework is available in a variety of subject areas including epidemiology, nutrition, cultural issues, health economics, public health, and biochemistry. Requests to enroll in a non-pharmacy elective must be submitted to the curriculum committee chair for approval. The student is asked to provide a written explanation of how this course will enhance their professional development. Additionally, the student is responsible for investigating the prerequisites and scheduling issues that may impact their ability to take these courses. This information should be included in the written request. Courses offered at other universities cannot be taken for elective credit. Exceptions may be made in rare instances but such courses must be approved in advance by the curriculum committee and the Associate Dean of Pharmacy. Courses completed prior to entering the PharmD program cannot be used to satisfy the elective requirement.

### **What is a directed study course?**

A directed study must be in the areas of pharmaceutical science, pharmacy practice or social and administrative pharmacy and must involve a significant body of knowledge and/or work relevant to the study of and/or practice of pharmacy. The study must be at an advanced academic or professional level. It should not duplicate work in any courses previously taken in the pharmacy program. Students may include a directed study as one of their electives. Directed studies are to be arranged with the coordinating faculty member with the goal of exposing students to research or practice environments on an individual basis. The student and faculty member should establish written goals. The level of difficulty of the learning experience should be commensurate with a graduate level experience. The student **must** confer with the faculty member offering the directed study prior to class registration.

### **What are the time commitments for a directed study course?**

Directed study courses will be offered for 2 credit hours in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. In accordance with the Wayne State University credit hour policy, a 2 credit hour directed study will consist of 90 hours of time dedicated to the course work. Students should discuss the expectations, time allocation, and evaluation criteria with a faculty member before registering for a directed study.

### **How is an exception to this policy made?**

Exceptions to the above policies related to maximum number of directed study credit can be requested by a student, in writing, through either the Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice or chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

### **What is the process for students to apply to the Graduate Certificate in Public Health or the Graduate Certificate in Business?**

Students interested in either of these programs should discuss it with their advisor and review the material that is available on the website. They may also contact the curriculum committee chair to learn more about the programs. Applications to either program must be submitted by December 1 of the fall P2 semester.

### **Timeline:**

**Jan. P1 year:** Applications for Research Scholars are due.

**Feb. P1 year:** Students will be informed if they are accepted into the Research Scholars Program.

**Fall P2 Year:** Early in the semester, the available elective courses and directed studies will be distributed and an information session will be held to describe the process. Information will also be provided about the Graduate Certificate in Public Health and the Graduate Certificate in Business.

**Fall P2 Year:** Advisor meetings must include discussion of elective choices.

**Fall P2 Year:** Students participating in Study of Medicinal Plants and Culture in Amazonia will be required to submit their downpayment for the trip.

**November:** Submission of application to attend the APhA institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependencies Course. Students will be notified of exact deadlines.

**Dec. P2 year:** Application to Graduate Certificate programs is due.

**First week of Winter P2 year:** Confirmation of Directed Study Participation.

**Second week of Winter P2 Year:**

Submission of elective choices via Qualtrics survey (link will be sent to students).

**March P2 year:** Assigned elective courses will be made available to all students.

**STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING FOR THE ASSIGNED ELECTIVES.**