

## **WEBSITE PBS FAQ's to be UPDATED**

- **Why does the University of Alberta entry-to-practice PharmD program include a PharmD for BSc in Pharmacy Students (PBS)?**

The approved PharmD program was developed in consultation with University of Alberta, Government of Alberta, pharmacists, pharmacy students, alumni and employers over the last several years. The Faculty was encouraged by the University of Alberta Provost's Office and the Government to develop a program to bridge the implementation of the PharmD degree for students enrolled in the BSc in Pharmacy program at the time the PharmD degree is implemented.

The Faculty proposed offering PharmD programs for three different audiences:

- (1) students entering the program (entry-to-practice PharmD),
- (2) students in the BSc in Pharmacy program at the time of implementation (PBS), and
- (3) graduates of a BSc in Pharmacy program (PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists).

For more information on other approaches to bridging see:

1. Smith, A. 2014. Postbaccalaureate PharmD Programs for Canadian Pharmacists: Options and Considerations. *CJHP* 2014;67(4).
2. Breault R, Hall J, Kehrer JP. More Information about Postbaccalaureate PharmD Training. *CJHP* 2014;67(6):460.

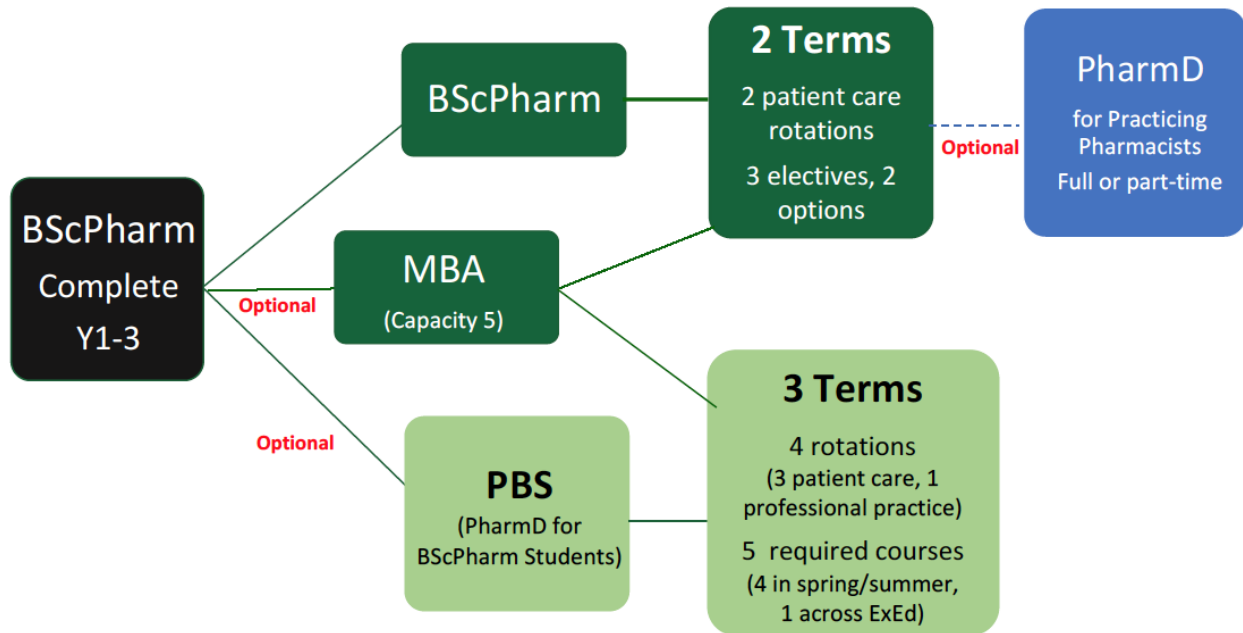
- **How does the PharmD for BScPharm Students (PBS) program differ from the BSc Pharmacy program for current students?**

The final year of the program changes:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> year of the BScPharm program includes 3 electives, 2 options, and 2 x8 week experiential education courses (both in direct patient care).
- The final year in the PBS program changes to a full-year of courses starting in May after 3<sup>rd</sup> year and consists of the following courses:
  - 3 required courses and 1 elective (Spring/Summer);
  - 4 x8 week experiential courses (Fall and Winter), 3 in direct patient care, and 1 in any professional practice setting; and
  - a distance-learning seminar course (1 credit per term) that runs concurrently with the experiential courses.

If you transfer into the PBS program, you complete the requirements in Y4 of that program, rather than (not in addition to) the requirements of Y4 in the BScPharm program.

- What are the alternatives available to me as a Y3 BScPharm student?



Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the BScPharm program, students may choose to:

1. Remain in the BScPharm program and complete their 4<sup>th</sup> year
    - Students selecting this alternative continue to have the opportunity to complete the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists (second professional degree) program; see [here](#) for more information about this program.
  2. Submit their interest in the PBS program and complete the required courses in 4<sup>th</sup> year
    - Students selecting this alternative **cannot** complete the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program
  3. Complete a combined MBA/Pharmacy degree
    - BScPharm Y3 → MBA 1 year (leave of absence?) → BScPharm Y4 classroom courses (Fall) + experiential education (Winter)
    - PBS Y3 → Y4 classroom course work (Spring/Summer) → MBA 1 year (leave of absence?) → PBS Y4 Experiential Education (Fall + Winter)
- Why would it benefit me to enroll in the PBS program?

It is important to remember that the BScPharm will remain the degree required for licensure in Canada.

Pharmacy practice is continually evolving and as professionals, you will continue to develop knowledge and skills throughout your career. Having a broader depth of experience with critical

appraisal, patient assessment, and critical thinking may help you better manage complex patients and be more confident in making decisions based on your assessment, in any practice setting. Two additional 8-week experiential courses also allow for more opportunity to practice and learn with a preceptor. One of these additional courses is in direct patient care, and the other is in any professional practice setting. These courses provide more practical experience for students prior to entering practice.

- **Why might the PBS program not be the right fit for me?**

It is important to remember that the BScPharm will remain the degree required for licensure in Canada.

The PBS program classroom courses are taught in a manner that requires students to be self-directed to prepare for classroom discussions, individually and sometimes in groups. This is a different style of learning from what you are used to in the BScPharm program and this can be stressful for some students.

There is also only a short (< 1 week) break between completing classes in Y3 of the BScPharm program and beginning classes in the PBS program, which may also pose challenges to the success of some students.

Finally, cost may be an important consideration. Given the classroom course schedule, you will not be able to work full-time during the summer. We recommend that you do not work or work minimally while enrolled in the PBS program. Given the additional tuition and costs associated with experiential placements, the PBS program may not be the best choice for all students from a financial perspective.

- **Would I ever be required to transfer into the PBS program if I wished to remain in the BScPharm program?**

No. The Faculty is obligated to provide you with the degree that you were admitted to.

- **What is the schedule for classroom courses in the PBS program?**

There will be a one-week break after the second semester of 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the 4<sup>th</sup> year starting in May.

The schedule for 2019-2020 is as follows:

- Elective Block: Apr 29 to May 17 (for Pharm courses)

- [PHARM 531](#): May 27 to July 5 (6 weeks; final exam to follow)
- [PHARM 532](#): May 27 to July 5 (6 weeks; final exam to follow)
- [PHARM 547](#): June 13 to August 1 (8 weeks; final exam to follow)

The experiential education courses will begin on August 26 and run through the Fall 2019 and Winter 2020 semesters:

Fall term

- Block 1: August 26 – October 18, 2019
- Block 2: October 21 – December 13, 2019

Winter term

- Block 3: January 6 – Feb 28, 2020
- Block 4: March 2 – April 24, 2020

The PharmD Seminar courses (PHARM 538 and PHARM 539) run concurrently with the Fall and Winter experiential education courses. There is no need to return to Edmonton for Seminar sessions. Each session has a professional or practice development theme. Student meet in small groups online at set times during each term and preceptors will be made aware of any required Seminar activities during placement hours.

- **What electives are available for me to take in the PBS program?**

Spring Term 2019:

INT D 375	Intercultural Exploration of Health and Practice in Italy (May 6-24)
PHARM 495	Leadership in Healthcare Decision Making (April 29-May 17)
PHARM 496	Clinical Pharmacogenomics as a Basis for Precision Medicine (April 29-May 17)
PHARM 498	Research and Directed Studies (Flexible)

ONCOL 475      Fundamentals of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences

PHIL 386        Healthcare Ethics

SOC 473        Sociology of Death and Dying

Further courses are being developed and information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available.

- **What electives are available to me to take in the BScPharm program?**

Courses offered in any given year are subject to change, however, the courses that are planned for the Class of 2020 include:

INT D 375	Intercultural Exploration of Health and Practice in Italy (Spring term)
INT D 457	Global Health – China Collaboration (Summer term)
PHARM 455	Specialty Pharmacy Rotation (Spring/Summer or Fall term)
PHARM 489	Seminars in Therapeutics and Professional Practice (Fall term)
PHARM 498	Research and Directed Studies (Spring or Fall term)

- **What happens if I fail a course in the PBS program?**

Students who fail a classroom course, but maintain a GPA of 2.1, will be able to enroll in experiential placements and will repeat the failed course in its next offering.

Students who fail an experiential placement course will be required to repeat it in the next academic year. Exact dates are planned individually once a preceptor and site are identified. More information about the number of experiential courses that can be failed can be found in the [calendar](#).

As of 2018/2019 in the PBS program, students cannot fail more than 2 experiential courses the first time, and for those failed, students must pass the course on the second attempt.

- **What additional experiential courses are added to the PharmD PBS program?**

Two placements are identical to the BScPharm program – community practice (PHARM 426) and acute care/inpatient (PHARM 428).

There are two additional required 8-week placements in the PBS:

- a direct patient care placement (PHARM 536) in any patient care environment (e.g., community, long-term care/supportive living, PCN, ambulatory clinics)
- a placement (PHARM 537) that will explore various components of practice in any professional practice environment (e.g., leadership/management, patient care, drug information services, government policy, compounding, research)

Placements are generally grouped 426/428 and 536/537 per term, however, may be matched in any order.

- **What is the additional tuition for the PBS program and how does it compare to the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program?**

In 2017-2018, students in the PBS program paid approximately \$7500 in tuition above what they would have paid in the BScPharm program. Consult the calendar for exact fees. Student will also be responsible for costs associated with travel to / accommodation for placements.

Tuition for the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program is calculated on a cost-recovery basis. The tuition and fees for the program will total approximately \$25,000.

- **How will students be enrolled the program?**

The PBS program is an option for BScPharm students who have completed their 3rd year and are in good standing based on academic performance and professional conduct. Although there was limited capacity for the number of students accepted into the PBS program in 2017 (65 students) and 2018 (90 students), consideration for transfer in 2019 will be based on a multifaceted review of academic and professional standing, including the cumulative GPA (Year 1 through Fall of Year 3, with all semesters weighted equally).

The Faculty has finalized the application process in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar. Students will be required to submit their interest in the PBS program by February 1, 2019. There will be no interview process and no fee. Conditional acceptance, pending successful completion of Year 3, will be granted effective April 29, 2019.

Of note, once a student enters the PBS program, they *cannot* go back into the BSc in Pharmacy program.

- **What GPA do I need to transfer to the PBS program?**

There is no set GPA requirement because the threshold is ultimately dependent on the number of students that submit interest in PBS program, thus it is not possible to directly state a median or estimate GPA. Students considering this program need to individually evaluate their ability to successfully undertake the additional coursework required for this program.

- **Will the PBS program be accredited?**

Yes. The PBS program was granted provisional accreditation in April 2018, pending its initial graduates in June.

- **Will the BScPharm students and the PBS students graduate at the same time?**

Yes, as long as students successfully complete all coursework. Both programs will be completed at the end of the Winter semester (April 2019). Convocation will be the same day for both programs.

- **Will PBS students have sufficient time to prepare for the PEBC licensing exams?**

Winter term experiential education courses in the BScPharm and PBS programs run concurrently, thus students should have equal opportunity to prepare for the exams.

- **Is it possible for students who enroll in the MBA/BScPharm combined program to re-enter the PBS program?**

No, it is not possible for students who remain in the BScPharm program when they enter the MBA program and return to the pharmacy program in the PBS stream.

Students who are selected for the PBS program, who have also been selected for the MBA program, will complete their PBS classroom coursework prior to completing their MBA coursework, followed by completion of the PBS experiential courses.

- **Will graduates of the PharmD/PBS programs be granted Additional Prescribing Authorization (APA) upon entry to practice?**

No. However, PharmD/PBS graduates will be eligible to apply for APA without the usual minimum of one year on the Clinical Register. Eligibility for APA is determined by the Alberta College of Pharmacists and applicants must submit a portfolio, which is assessed by a panel of standardized peers.

Through the various teaching and assessment strategies utilized in the PBS program, we believe students are well prepared to submit their APA application.

- **Will graduates of the PharmD/PBS programs be granted preference by employers and/or be offered higher salaries.**

Hiring and wages are determined by each individual employer.

Employers have stated that they value what a new graduate is doing to maximize their ability to care for patients, including how they apply their knowledge and skills. The PBS program is another stepping stone to developing knowledge and skills, but is not indicative of your initiative or ability. Employers have stated that there is no wage differential for BScPharm and PharmD graduates.

- **Can students in the BSc in Pharmacy program enroll in PBS and/or PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists courses as electives in the 4<sup>th</sup> year?**

No, the PBS and PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists courses are restricted to students admitted to those programs.

- **What is the projected enrollment (capacity) for the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program, if I choose to complete this following my BScPharm degree?**

The PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program was implemented in 2013 on a full-time basis. Enrollment has increased each year. The Faculty anticipates enrolling up to 25 students in the on campus pathway of the program each year.

The part-time pathway of the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program was implemented in January 2016. The faculty anticipates enrolling up to 20 students annually in the distance pathway.

Enrollment is based on two main factors: demand for the program (number of qualified applicants) and capacity for experiential placements (preceptor and practice sites). Enrollment capacity is reassessed annually.

- **Who is eligible to apply for the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program?**

Admission requirements include licensure to practice pharmacy in Canada and eligibility for licensure in Alberta. The program accepts recent and experienced BScPharm graduates. Further answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program can be found [here](#).

- **How long will the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program be offered at the University of Alberta?**

The program is available to practicing pharmacists who wish to pursue a PharmD degree. The program will continue to be offered as long as there is sufficient demand.

- **How long will the PharmD for Practicing Pharmacists program be offered as a full-time program?**

The decision to continue the full-time pathway of the program will be reassessed based on a number of factors including applicant demand and available resources.

The distance pathway of the program will continue to be offered based on demand. This is similar to other Faculties of Pharmacy in Canada such as the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

- **Will the PBS program PharmD degree be recognized when applying for graduate school programs?**



Yes, the PharmD degree will be recognized as your undergraduate, first professional degree in pharmacy and will enable you to apply for graduate school programs.