

Frequently Asked Questions: WPPD Program Phase Out

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy has decided to phase-out the Working Professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program (WPPD). The last semester we will admit new students to the program will be summer of 2016.

Q. Why did the UF College of Pharmacy take this step?

A. Since 1994, the WPPD Program has served a critical role in providing pharmacists with a B.S. pharmacy degree with a path for obtaining the Pharm.D. degree. When the program reached its peak in the mid-2000s, the program had approximately 700 enrolled students. It has been approximately 15 years since there were B.S. pharmacy graduates in the U.S., and as a result, the demand for the WPPD Program has significantly decreased.

Q. What will happen to current and future WPPD students?

A. By the end of 2015, the WPPD Program will have graduated over 2500 students. Ninety-seven percent of our 2014 graduates indicated that they were better prepared for clinical practice following the completion of the program. As the largest and most successful non-traditional Pharm.D. education program in the country the WPPD Program and the College of Pharmacy is committed to ensuring that students currently enrolled or future enrollees in the spring and summer of 2016 will enjoy the high-quality education that they have come to expect from the University of Florida. The WPPD Program will exist until the last continuously enrolled student graduates.

Q. What happens if an enrolled student has to take a semester off?

A. In the event a student needs to take a semester off for personal reasons, the student will be able to petition to take the missed course in a make-up model mode. Certain criteria must be met per make-up model policy and procedures.

Q. Will the current WPPD curriculum change?

A. The WPPD Program will continue to maintain its integrity and high quality curricular standards.

Q. Will there be changes to the current CPA program?

A. There are no anticipated changes to the CPA program. The current CPA opportunities will continue to be available.

Q. Will there be changes to the current tuition structure?

- A. Students who complete the program in 9 consecutive semesters will have no tuition increase. Specifically, those who complete all coursework within 9 semesters will not have a tuition increase in the foundations and the body system courses and the tuition/fee charges for PHA5666, PHA5667 and PHA5668 (Practice Experiences I, II, III).

Q. What changes can one expect regarding existing and future site locations?

- A. The WPPD Program administration constantly monitors site locations and group size to optimize the student learning experience. If a current regional or remote model group size drops below the minimum group threshold, alternate options will be offered and advance notice will be given to those affected students.

Additionally, the administration is considering piloting a virtual model as a way to continue to offer students flexibility and convenience while completing the Pharm.D. degree.

Q. Will the phase-out affect the value of my degree?

- A. All graduates of the WPPD Program will obtain a degree from the University of Florida—one of the most prestigious universities in the nation. The College has a reputation of preparing high-caliber pharmacists via traditional and non-traditional pathways. The education gained through the program will help to develop a competitive advantage throughout your career.

Q. Will the phase-out of the WPPD Program affect the College's accreditation by ACPE?

- A. The phase-out of the WPPD Program will not affect the UF College of Pharmacy accreditation. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy (ACPE) has been informed of the plan to phase-out the WPPD Program and requires the university to carry out the commitment to students through their final course, as long as they are continuously enrolled.

Q. Who can I contact with additional questions?

- A. Email additional questions to Dr. Greg Zuest at zuest@cop.ufl.edu. We will respond to emails and we will continue to update FAQs as new questions are posed.