Graduate Program in Pharmacological Sciences

David Mobley, Graduate Program Advisor for the Interdisciplinary Program
Graduate Student Affairs: 949-824-1991 (Program administered by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Overview

The Departments of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences offer an interdisciplinary program leading to a Ph.D. in Pharmacological Sciences. The Ph.D. prepares students for careers in academic research institutions, in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, in federal and state agencies, and in private research institutions by providing a research-intensive approach to the study of pharmacology. Students applying to the Ph.D. program choose a concentration in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacology, or Medicinal Chemistry.

Faculty research programs in Pharmacological Sciences include molecular and cellular pharmacology, circadian rhythms, epigenetic modifications, neuropharmacology, psychopharmacology, cardiovascular pharmacology, the pharmacology of aging, structure-based drug design, screening-based drug discovery, medicinal chemistry, structural biology, natural product biosynthesis, and synthase engineering, cancer detection, prevention and therapy, gene regulation and intercellular signaling, computational biology and bioinformatics, and nanomedicine for targeted drug and gene delivery testing.

Program Requirements

Admission

Pharmacology Concentration
A strong background in the physical and biological sciences is required for admission, including courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biochemistry, with laboratory experience. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Subject Test in Biology or Chemistry are required for direct admission into the Pharmacology Concentration. The Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentrations requires the GRE test and recommends a Subject Test in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, or Cell & Molecular Biology.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration
A strong background in the physical and biological sciences is required for admission, including courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biochemistry, with laboratory experience. The Graduate Record Examination is required and a Subject Test in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, or Cell and Molecular Biology is recommended for direct admission into the Pharmaceutical Sciences concentration.

Medicinal Chemistry Concentration
A strong background in the physical and biological sciences is required for admission, including courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biochemistry, with laboratory experience. The Graduate Record Examination is required a Subject Test in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, or Cell and Molecular Biology is recommended for direct admission into the concentration.

Course Requirements

The primary difference between the two concentrations are the first-year course requirements, which in the Pharmacology Concentration focuses on mainline pharmacology topics while the Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration encompasses a broad range of allied fields. Courses are offered by faculty from both departments in the Pharmacological Sciences program.

Coursework Requirements - Pharmacology Concentration
New students admitted directly into the Pharmacology Concentration are subject to the coursework requirement as listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses:</th>
<th>Advanced Topics in Pharmacology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHARM 241</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 251</td>
<td>Experimental Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 254</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 255</td>
<td>Neuropharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 256</td>
<td>Experimental Design for Pharmacologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 257</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 298</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHARM 299</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses from the Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration required course list may be substituted for some of the Pharmacology Concentration required courses with the consent of the Concentration Advisor, according to the interests of the student.
Coursework Requirements - Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration

New students admitted directly into the Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration are subject to the first year coursework requirements listed below.

Choose three of the following plus three electives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 223</td>
<td>Biological Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARM 254</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARM 255</td>
<td>Neuropharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 272</td>
<td>Special Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 274</td>
<td>Nanomedicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 277</td>
<td>Medicinal Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 278</td>
<td>Stem Cell Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 279</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First-year coursework must include training in the ethical conduct of research (e.g., PHARM 257 or equivalent), three courses from the required list above, and three electives chosen from 1) the same list; 2) from the Pharmacology concentration required courses above; 3) from the Medicinal Chemistry concentration list; or 4) any UCI four-unit letter-graded graduate course approved as an elective by the Pharmaceutical Sciences concentration advisor.

Coursework Requirements - Medicinal Chemistry Concentration

New students admitted directly into the Medicinal Chemistry concentration are subject to the first year coursework requirements listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 223</td>
<td>Biological Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARM 254</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 277</td>
<td>Medicinal Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHRMSCI 250A-250B-250C</td>
<td>Current Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Current Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Current Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who complete all requirements of the one-year MCP gateway program qualify to transfer into the Pharmaceutical Sciences Concentration at the end of their first academic year. The MCP gateway has different first-year requirements. Students entering the concentration from a MCP gateway are required to pass the Pharmacological Sciences Comprehensive Exam. In addition, MCP students who have passed fewer than the six courses required for the concentration during the first-year must bring the total up to six by the end of the second year (the full year of PHRMSCI 250A-PHRMSCI 250B-PHRMSCI 250C may be counted as one course for this purpose).

Comprehensive Exam

After completion of first year courses, each student must pass a Comprehensive Exam covering first year coursework subjects. It will be offered once per year during the summer and normally will take place prior to the second year. It may be deferred to the following year only under unusual circumstances and with the prior approval of the Graduate Advisor. There will be a single Comprehensive Exam offered, covering subjects appropriate for students in any concentration. Each candidate for the Ph.D. must pass the Comprehensive Exam or equivalent no later than the end of their second year.

Advancement to Candidacy

Upon completion of first-year course requirements, in order to be recommended for candidacy, each student will take a written qualifying examination set by the program faculty to determine competence in pharmacological sciences. After completing this requirement successfully, the student will complete an oral qualifying examination in accordance with Graduate Council procedures. Advancement normally will take place no earlier than the sixth quarter or later than the ninth; exceptions must be approved by the Pharmacological Sciences and Concentration Advisor. For each student, the Graduate Advisor will assign four Advancement-to-Candidacy Committee members chosen from faculty of both departments/concentrations, plus the required outside member.

Dissertation

A three-member Doctoral Committee formed from the Advancement to Candidacy Committee will meet with the candidate annually to assess and guide the student's progress toward completion of the dissertation. When the student's research advisor and Doctoral Committee members determine that a sufficient body of original research has been completed, the student will prepare the dissertation for a public defense before the Doctoral Committee.

Final Examination

Upon completion of the dissertation the student will take a public oral examination on the content of his or her dissertation or related topics. The examination will be conducted by the student's Doctoral Committee.
Faculty
Geoffrey W. Abbott, Ph.D. University of London, Professor of Pharmacology; Physiology and Biophysics
Amal Alachkar, Ph.D. University of Manchester, Associate Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology
James D. Belluzzi, Ph.D. University of Chicago, Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology
Claudia Benavente, Ph.D. University of Arizona, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Developmental and Cell Biology (genetics, epigenetics, cancer, pediatric cancer, retinoblastoma, osteosarcoma)
Stephen C. Bondy, Ph.D. University of Birmingham, Professor of Medicine; Environmental Health Sciences; Pharmacology; Program in Public Health
Emiliana Borrelli, Ph.D. University of Strasbourg, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Pharmacology
Catherine M. Cahill, Ph.D. Dalhousie University, Acting Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care; Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care; Pharmacology
A. Richard Chamberlin, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Department Chair and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Chemistry (chemical biology, organic and synthetic)
John Charles Chaput, Ph.D. University of California, Riverside, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (chemical and synthetic biology)
Olivier Civelli, Ph.D. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Department Chair and Eric L. and Lila D. Nelson Chair in Neuropharmacology and Professor of Pharmacology; Developmental and Cell Biology; Pharmaceutical Sciences (novel neuroactive molecules)
Sue P. Duckles, Ph.D. University of California, San Francisco, Professor Emerita of Pharmacology
Frederick J. Ehlerl, Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Professor of Pharmacology
Pietro R. Galassetti, Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, Associate Professor of Pediatrics; Pharmacology
Kelvin W. Gee, Ph.D. University of California, Davis, Professor of Pharmacology
Daniel W. Gil, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, Associate Adjunct Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Celia Goulding, Ph.D. King's College London, Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Pharmaceutical Sciences
Stephen Hanessian, Ph.D. Ohio State University, Director of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology Graduate Program and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Chemistry; Pharmacology (organic chemistry)
Naoto Hoshi, Ph.D. Kanazawa University, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology; Physiology and Biophysics
Mahtab F. Jafari, Pharm.D. University of California, San Francisco, Vice Chair and Director of the Center for Healthspan Pharmacology and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Pharmacology (anti-aging pharmacology and preventive medicine)
Diana N. Krause, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology
Young Jik Kwon, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Biomedical Engineering; Chemical Engineering and Materials Science; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (gene therapy, drug delivery, cancer-targeted therapeutics, combined molecular imaging and therapy, cancer vaccine)
Arthur D. Lander, Ph.D. University of California, San Francisco, Donald Bren Professor and Professor of Developmental and Cell Biology; Biomedical Engineering; Logic and Philosophy of Science; Pharmacology (systems biology of development, pattern formation, growth control)
Frances L. Leslie, Ph.D. University of Aberdeen, Professor of Pharmacology; Anatomy and Neurobiology
Ellis Levin, M.D. Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College, Professor in Residence of Medicine; Biological Chemistry; Pharmacology
John C. Longhurst, Ph.D. University of California, Davis, Susan Samuei Chair in Integrative Medicine and Professor of Medicine; Pharmacology; Physiology and Biophysics
Shahrdad Lotfipour, Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology
Sandra E. Loughlin-Burkhead, B.A. University of California, San Diego, Specialist of Pharmacology
Zhigang D. Luo, Ph.D. State University of New York at Buffalo, Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care; Pharmacology
Affiliate Faculty

Bruce Blumberg, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, **Professor of Developmental and Cell Biology; Biomedical Engineering; Environmental Health Sciences; Pharmaceutical Sciences** (gene regulation by nuclear hormone receptors in vertebrate development physiology, endocrine disruption)

Olivier Civelli, Ph.D. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, **Department Chair and Eric L. and Lila D. Nelson Chair in Neuropharmacology and Professor of Pharmacology; Developmental and Cell Biology; Pharmaceutical Sciences** (novel neuroactive molecules)

Melanie Cocco, Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University, **Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Pharmaceutical Sciences**

John P. Fruehauf, M.D. Rush University, **Professor of Medicine; Biomedical Engineering; Pharmaceutical Sciences** (in-vitro cancer models using 3-D tissue systems to predict drug response)

Anthony D. Long, Ph.D. McMaster University, **Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Jennifer A. Prescher, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, **Associate Professor of Chemistry; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Pharmaceutical Sciences** (chemical biology, organic and synthetic)

Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Ph.D. University of Naples Federico II, **Donald Bren Professor and Professor of Biological Chemistry; Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Shiou-Chuan (Sheryl) Tsai, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, **Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Sciences**