Research Scholars – A research concentration track in PharmD curriculum to encourage research and innovation

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Wayne State University implemented a renewed PharmD curriculum beginning with the Class of 2020. One component of the renewed curriculum includes a Research Scholars track that aims to provide students authentic hands-on learning and research experience to enhance skills and knowledge in basic and clinical sciences. PharmD students with interest in research are encouraged to apply to the Research Scholars track after the Fall P1 semester. Ten students are offered admission to the program each academic year following a competitive selection process. Scholars enroll in a sequence of coursework electives complementing their longitudinal multi-semester project and are supervised by faculty mentors. They receive valuable experience in research design and analysis, scientific methods, specific laboratory skills, and responsible conduct of research and ethics within areas of pharmaceutical sciences, clinical/translational research, practice-based research and health outcome research. Students have the option to choose from a wide range of research specialties based on their research and professional interests.

The research track is structured to promote the students’ publication and presentation skills while working with their mentors on research projects. The research experience gained within the track is expected to help these students gain advantage in securing post-graduate residencies, fellowships and advanced graduate degree studies. Students completing the research track will obtain a concentration in research coded on their university transcript at graduation.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- The research Scholars program information is presented to the students in Fall P1 semester during a class session in Drug Literature Evaluation course.
- Advising about Research Scholars is also addressed in Fall P1.
- Application is during January P1 year.
- Acceptance notified mid-February P1 year.
- Admission Requirements
  - “B” or better in PHA 4125: Drug Literature Evaluation course
  - Cumulative undergrad GPA ≥3.0 by end of Fall P1
  - PCAT of ≥75th percentile in chemistry, quantitative and biology sections; Essay describing interests and career goals + CV
  - Maximum of 10 students selected each year

RENEWED CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS

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ABSTRACT

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Research Scholars Electives Mapping

- Renewed PharmD Curriculum and Research Concentration Track
- Necessary adjustments were made for PHA 4395 before Spring 2018 implementation based on 2017 Spring course review feedback from Curriculum Committee and student focus groups.
- A systematic tracking mechanism for progression of elective credits and timely submission of revised and mentor reviewed IDP (Individual Development Plan) was established during Winter 2018. The processes are now linked to faculty approval to register for research elective credits

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