



University at Buffalo

School of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Scholars Program Student Handbook 2019-2020

Scholars Program Committee:

Erin Slazak, PharmD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Chair, UB SPPS Scholars Program

Fred Doloresco, PharmD
Clinical Associate Professor

Scott Monte, PharmD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Gina Prescott, PharmD
Clinical Associate Professor

William A. Prescott, Jr., PharmD
Clinical Professor
Interim Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Kelly Sustakoski
Academic Coordinator

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See also: <http://pharmacy.buffalo.edu/academic-programs/pharmd/special-programs/scholars-program.html>

General Overview

The Scholars Program of the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (UB SPPS) is designed to identify doctor of pharmacy students with demonstrated excellence in academic achievement having an interest in postgraduate residency training. This program provides mentoring to third and fourth professional year students in the areas of clinical practice, scholarship, and teaching so as to help mold the future leaders of our profession. In addition to the traditional PharmD program requirements, the Scholars Program student will participate in the following activities during their third and/or fourth professional year: (1) mentoring program, (2) modified coursework encompassing clinical practice, research, teaching, and leadership, (3) modified experiential education activities, (4) journal club, (5) teaching activities, (6) scholarship, and (7) professional presentations.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the UB SPPS Scholars Program, students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA in required courses and documented history of professional organization involvement. A student having a GPA between 3.2 and 3.49 may petition to enroll in the program, pending input from his/her faculty advisor. A letter of support from the faculty advisor must be sent to the Scholars Program Committee Chair.

Application and Interview Process

Students must formally apply to the Scholars Program to be considered. To apply, students must complete the UB SPPS Scholars Program application and upload their CV as directed between November 15th and November 30th of their second professional (P2) year (unless otherwise specified). Applications are not accepted at any other time. Applications are reviewed by the UB SPPS Scholars Program committee during the month of December. Selected students will be offered an interview via email no later than January 31st. On-site interviews will be held the week prior to the start of the spring semester (an alternate date will be set the first week of classes for those students who are out of town during the first interview session). Interviews will consist of a 10-20 minute on-site interview with members of the UB SPPS Scholars Program committee.

Enrollment Process

Following interviews, a maximum of 10-12 students will be invited into the Scholars Program by email no later than March 1st. Only students deemed to be outstanding candidates will be accepted into this program. Students must complete and return appendices A and B no later than March 15th.

Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program are expected to maintain a minimum semester GPA of 3.0. Students not meeting this GPA requirement will need to schedule a meeting with the Chair of the UB SPPS Scholars Program Committee to discuss their academic standing and to outline a plan to improve their GPA. Based on this meeting, the outcome will be an outlined plan for continuation in the UB SPPS Scholars Program or dismissal from the UB SPPS Scholars Program. Students who are placed on academic probation by the UB SPPS Student Affairs Committee will be automatically dismissed from the Scholars Program, so as to allow students to focus their attention on academics. Students who are dismissed from the Scholars Program may not apply for readmission.

Professionalism Requirements

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program are expected to maintain the highest level of professionalism. Students deemed to have acted in an unprofessional manner are subject to dismissal from the UB SPPS Scholars Program. The UB SPPS Scholars Program will take advisement from the UB SPPS Student Affairs Committee on issues concerning professionalism.

Mentoring

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be given the opportunity to engage in one-on-one mentoring for professional growth, clinical practice, scholarship, and/or teaching. Mentors may be UB SPPS faculty or adjunct faculty members. Students will be given the opportunity to submit their top three mentor preferences ([Appendix B](#)) (submit by March 15th). A list of approved and available mentors will be provided by the UB SPPS Scholars Program ([Appendix C](#)). Students may identify a mentor from this list, or may identify a mentor on their own. Mentors not pre-identified will need to be approved by the UB SPPS Scholars Program Committee.

Mentor Responsibilities

UB SPPS Scholars Program mentors are expected to mentor students during their third and/or fourth professional year in the following activities: (1) clinical practice through experiential education activities; (2) scholarship through research and/or scientific writing (e.g., reviews of therapeutics, case reports); and, (3) professional presentation of research / scientific writing ([Appendix D](#)).

Curriculum

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be given the opportunity to complete modified coursework encompassing clinical practice, research, teaching, and leadership. Courses identified with “(E)” indicate courses that will count towards the required elective credit hours over the first three professional years required by the UB SPPS. Students are expected to enroll in the required courses as outlined below on the course listing. Students who do not enroll in the listed courses, or who resign from any of the listed courses, will be automatically dismissed from the Scholars Program and will not receive their UB SPPS Scholars Program certificate of completion.

Standard PharmD Curriculum with Required Scholars Program Electives					
Fall			Spring		
PHM 701	Neurology/Psychiatry/Substance Abuse Pharmacotherapeutics	3	PHM 703	Oncology/Hematology Pharmacotherapeutics	3
PHM 702	Pulmonary/Toxicology/Rheumatology Pharmacotherapeutics	3	PHM 704	Geriatrics/Pediatrics/Critical Care Pharmacotherapeutics	3
PHC 517	Pharmacogenomics	2	PHM 716	Pharmaceutical Care 5	1
PHM 706	Informatics and Health Information Systems	2	PHM 730	Topics in Pharmacy Law	1
PHM 715	Pharmaceutical Care 4	1	PHM 736	Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmacoepidemiology	2
PHM 729	Pharmacy Ethics	2	PHM 782	IPPE-3b	3
PHM 781	IPPE-3a	3	PHM 555	All School	0
PHM 599	Teaching and Learning Theory (E)	1	PHM 550	Leadership in Pharmacy (E) ‡	1
PHM 798	Supervised Teaching (E) ¥ in PHM 515 (Pharm Care I) or PHM 615 (Pharm Care II)	2	PHM 798	Supervised Teaching (E) ¥ in PHM 516 (Self-Care) or PHM 616 (Pharm Care III)	2
PHM 555	All School	0	PHM 794	Advanced Ambulatory Pharmacotherapeutics (E)	2
			PHM 795	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (E)	2
		19			20

E = Counts towards the required 8 hours of elective credit hours required by the UB SPPS for graduation.

¥ = TA activities occur during both the fall and spring semesters.

‡ = Students who previously completed PHM 550 are exempt from this requirement.

Experiential Education

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be given the opportunity to partake in tailored introductory (IPPE) and advanced pharmacy practice (APPE) experiences, focusing on clinical practice, scholarship, and/or teaching, so as to better prepare them for post-graduate training.

Students in the standard PharmD programs will complete one IPPE-3 rotation, one clinical APPE rotation, and one elective APPE research / clinical rotation with their UB SPPS Scholars Program mentor. The clinical and elective research rotation will be pre-arranged with the experiential education office during the spring of the P3 year. The specific modules that the rotations will be scheduled are at the discretion of the mentor and student, but it is highly recommended that the clinical rotation be scheduled either during the summer or early fall of the P4 year. The modules may be scheduled back-to-back, in which case it is recommended that the elective rotation be scheduled first followed by the clinical rotation. In this case, the focus of the first rotation will be the scholarly project (with a grade provided at the end of the module), while the focus of the second rotation will be clinical (and would follow the typical APPE module requirements).

Scheduling of the IPPE and APPE rotations will be overseen by the UB SPPS Office of Experiential Education. Questions regarding experiential education within the UB SPPS Scholars Program should be directed to Dr. Nicholas Fusco, Clinical Associate Professor / UB SPPS Interim Director of Experiential Education, at nmfusco@buffalo.edu.

Journal Club

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be required to participate in a journal club. Journal club will be held once per semester, will align with the UB SPPS Resident Journal Club, and will be scheduled prior to commencement of the fall semester. Attendance is expected at each scheduled session. Students who anticipate being absent must notify Dr. Erin Slazak, Clinical Associate Professor. Questions regarding the UB SPPS Scholars Program journal club should be directed to Dr. Erin Slazak, Clinical Assistant Professor, at emsabia@buffalo.edu.

Teaching Activities / Requirements

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be required to serve as a teaching assistant during their third professional year. Teaching activities will occur within the Pharmaceutical Care course sequence during the P3 fall semester (PHM 515/615) and P3 spring semester (PHM 615/616). Students must register for PHM599: Teaching and Learning Theory during the fall semester (or per course offering, see curriculum table). Questions regarding the UB SPPS Scholars Program teaching assistant activities should be directed to Dr. Robert Wahler, Clinical Assistant Professor, at rgwahler@buffalo.edu.

Scholarly Activities / Requirements

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be given an opportunity to conduct a scholarly project. The goal of the scholarly project is to provide the student with experience in clinical / pharmaceutical research / writing through the completion of a research or other scholarly project in close collaboration with a faculty mentor. This guided experience is intended to familiarize the student with all aspects of the research and/or scholarly writing process.

Students are expected to attend the didactic research course, "Preparing Pharmacy Residents for Scholarship". Students will attend this half-day class during the fall semester of their P3 year. This requirement will begin for the class of 2019.

Students may fulfill this requirement by preparing an original research project, a case report, or a review of therapeutics, in collaboration with their UB SPPS Scholars Program mentor ([Appendix D](#)). If the student is involved in a research project, the student is expected to participate in the initial development of the idea (the mentor may provide options), prepare a research proposal, collect and analyze data, prepare and submit the manuscript for publication, and present the results. Original research may be prospective or retrospective in design, but should be able to be completed prior to graduation. If the student is involved in a writing project, the student is expected to participate in the initial development of the idea, complete the literature review, critically evaluate the literature, prepare and submit the manuscript for publication, and present the results. It is expected that students submit their manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal prior to graduation.

Students should work with their mentor to develop a project timeline, and should view the scholarly project as a longitudinal effort, working with their research mentor before, during and after their dedicated P4 research rotation(s). One of the fundamentals of being an outstanding researcher is time management. Therefore, the student and faculty mentor should establish a timeline and make sure you are meeting milestones. Students should not have the expectation that all of the work is to be done during their P4 research rotation(s). Rather, this should be viewed as one time block within a longitudinal timeline.

The UB SPPS Scholars Program scholarly project fulfills the pharmacy project requirement. Students who do not fulfill the scholarly project requirement (see above) will not receive their UB SPPS Scholars Program certificate of completion. Questions regarding the UB SPPS Scholars Program scholarly project activities should be directed to Dr. Erin Slazak, Clinical Assistant Professor, at emsabia@buffalo.edu.

Professional Presentation Activities / Requirements

Poster Presentation (local): Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program will be required to present their scholarly project in the form of a poster presentation during the spring semester (usually in April) of their fourth professional year at the annual UB Residency Research Presentation day. Students should try to plan their APPE schedule accordingly to assure they are available for this event, but will be excused if they are completing an out-of-region APPE. The poster should be developed in collaboration with their UB SPPS Scholars Program mentor. Students who do not fulfill the professional presentation requirement, unless excused for an out-of-region APPE, will not receive their UB SPPS Scholars Program certificate of completion.

Poster Presentation (state/national): Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program who are completing a hypothesis driven research project to fulfill their scholarly activity requirement are encouraged to submit their scholarly project as a poster at a state or national pharmacy meeting. The meeting to which the poster is submitted will be at the discretion of their UB SPPS Scholars Program mentor.

Questions regarding the UB SPPS Scholars Program professional presentation activities should be Dr. Erin Slazak, Clinical Assistant Professor, at emsabia@buffalo.edu.

Program Completion

Students enrolled in the UB SPPS Scholars Program are required to complete all components of the Scholars Program (Appendix D) prior to the end of their P4 year. These requirements will be tracked by the Scholars Program Committee.

Student Outcomes Monitoring

The Scholars Program of the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (UB SPPS) is designed to provide mentorship to third and fourth professional year students in the areas of clinical practice, scholarship, and teaching so as to help mold the future leaders of our profession. Students enrolled in the scholars program are asked to provide the following information upon graduation and every two years thereafter.

- Contact information: Email address
- Post-graduate training information: Residency, fellowship, other (specify)
- Career information: Position, title, institution, location

Important Deadlines

Student application to SP	November 15-30 (P2 year)
E-mail invitation to applying students	January 31 (P2 year)
Interview	February (P2 year)
E-mail invitation to accepted students	March 1 (P2 year)
Appendices A and B due from students	March 15 (P2 year)
Scholarly project platform presentation	May 1 (P4 year)
Submission of verification form (Appendix D)	May 1 (P4 year)
Submission of abstract (if applicable)	Per Professional Meeting Deadlines

Appendix A: Scholars Program Student Commitment Form

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the UB SPPS Scholars Program policies and procedures as detailed in the UB SPPS Scholars Program Student Handbook.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Please complete this form and submit to Mrs. Kelly Sustakoski, Academic Coordinator, in 201C Kapoor Hall by March 15th of your P2 year.

Appendix B: Scholars Program Student Information / Mentor Request Form

Student Name: _____

Primary Post-graduate Training Interest (check one):

- PGY-1
- PGY-1 and PGY-2
- Fellowship
- Post-doctoral Training
- Other: _____

Clinical / Research Interest(s) (check up to five):

- Academia / Academic Administration
- Ambulatory care
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Drug information / Informatics
- Emergency Medicine
- Geriatrics
- Health-System Administration / Medication Use Safety
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine / Family Medicine
- Nephrology
- Nuclear
- Nutrition Support
- Oncology
- Pain Management / Palliative Care
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Solid Organ Transplantation
- Toxicology
- Underserved Population Patient Care
- Other: _____

Mentor identification (check one):

- I have met with and identified potential mentor(s) † (please list name(s) here in order of preference):
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
- I have not yet identified a mentor and would like assistance based on my interests

Please complete this form and submit to Mrs. Kelly Sustakoski, Academic Coordinator, in 201C Kapoor Hall by March 15th of your P2 year.

Appendix C: Scholars Program Mentor List

Academia / Academic Administration

William A. Prescott, Jr., PharmD
Contact: prescott@buffalo.edu

Ambulatory care

Nicole Albanese, PharmD, CDE, BCACP
Contact: npaolini@buffalo.edu

Erin Slazak, PharmD, BCBS, BCACP
Contact: emsabia@buffalo.edu

Cardiology

None/TBD

Community Practice

Christopher Daly, PharmD
Contact: cjdaly@buffalo.edu

Critical Care

Michael Ott, PharmD
Contact: mottc@ecmc.edu

Kim Zammit, PharmD
Contact: KZammit@KaleidaHealth.Org

Brian Kersten, PharmD
Contact: bkersten@kaleidahealth.org

Drug information / Informatics

Fred Doloresco, PharmD
Contact: frediii@buffalo.edu

Emergency Medicine

Megan Nadler, PharmD
Contact: MNadler@kaleidahealth.org

Geriatrics

Robert Wahler, PharmD
Contact: rgwahler@buffalo.edu

Health-System Administration / Medication Use Safety

Andrew DiLuca, RPh
Contact: ADiLuca@KaleidaHealth.Org

Infectious Disease

Brian Tsuji, PharmD
Contact: btsuji@buffalo.edu

Internal Medicine / Family Medicine

Fred Doloresco, PharmD
Contact: frediii@buffalo.edu

Gina Prescott, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: gmzurick@buffalo.edu

Stephanie Seyse, PharmD
Contact: SSeyse@KaleidaHealth.Org

Ashley Woodruff, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: aew7@buffalo.edu

Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: necieri@buffalo.edu

Nephrology

Calvin Meaney, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: cjmeaney@buffalo.edu

Neurology

Fran Gengo, PharmD
Contact: fgengo@dentinstitute.com

Michelle Rainka, PharmD, CCRP
Contact: MRainka@dentinstitute.com

Nuclear

Edward Bednarczyk, PharmD, FCCP
Contact: eb@buffalo.edu

Nutrition Support

Kim Zammit, PharmD
Contact: KZammit@KaleidaHealth.Org

Oncology

None

Pain Management / Palliative Care

Robert Wahler, PharmD
Contact: rgwahler@buffalo.edu

Pediatrics

William A. Prescott, Jr., PharmD
Contact: prescott@buffalo.edu

Nicholas Fusco, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: nmfusco@buffalo.edu

Psychiatry

Kimberly Mulcahy
Contact: Kimberly.Mulcahy@omh.ny.gov

Solid Organ Transplantation

None

Underserved Population Patient Care

Gina Prescott, PharmD, BCPS
Contact: gmzurick@buffalo.edu

Appendix D: Scholars Program Component Checklist

The following requirements must be completed prior to the end of the P4 year.

Curriculum / Experiential Education

- PHM 599, Teaching and Learning Theory
- PHM 550, Leadership in Pharmacy
- PHM 794, Advanced Ambulatory Pharmacotherapeutics
- PHM 795, Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics
- PHM 781/782, IPPE-3 (with mentor)
- PHM 820/821/823/824, APPE (with mentor)
- PHM 831, APPE (with mentor)

Journal Club

- Fall semester (P3)
- Spring semester (P3)

Teaching

- Fall semester (P3): PHM515 / PHM 615 (circle one)
- Spring semester (P3): PHM516 / PHM 616 (circle one)

Scholarly Project / Professional Presentation

- Scholarly project
- Poster- Local: UB Residency Research Day (if excused, please keep documentation/email verification)
- State: _____ or National: _____