

PharmD/MD Dual Degree Program

The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) offers an innovative PharmD/MD dual degree option, developed jointly with the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). To be eligible to apply, you must be in the 2nd or 3rd year of the PharmD professional program at EMSOP.

This unique and highly selective program is designed to create an elite cadre of interdisciplinary practitioners, highly skilled in the disciplines of both pharmacy and medicine, and poised to provide leadership in collaborative clinical practice, academic research, public policy, and the pharmaceutical industry. This program is directed by dual degree program committees in the School of Pharmacy and the Medical School. Successful applicants will not be required to take the MCAT exam and will matriculate into RWJMS upon their completion of the PharmD program.

Application Eligibility and Process

Interested students are urged to make an appointment with a member of the School of Pharmacy PharmD/MD committee. Students may apply in the fall semester of the P3 (third professional) year. P2 students may also apply, but may be urged to wait until the P3 year to strengthen their qualifications.

[Application materials are available online](#)

Calendar for Application Process

Fall Semester

- Submission of application, essay delineating interest, letters of recommendation; applications due first week of January.
- In planning for rotations, prospective dual degree students are strongly encouraged to preference sites that provide strong clinical opportunities to work alongside medical students.

January

- EMSOP's PharmD/MD committee reviews written materials: letter describing interest, application form, and three letters of recommendation [see application form for full details].
- EMSOP evaluates applications and sets schedule for interviews for selected candidates.
- EMSOP dual degree committee interviews selected candidates.
- EMSOP dual degree committee evaluates interviewees and forwards names of recommended candidates to the Admissions Committee of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

February to May

- RWJMS Admissions Committee evaluates candidates, schedules interviews, and notifies students about their status.
- Once admitted into the dual degree program, students complete the pharmacy program, including their APPE rotations. They are strongly encouraged to seek opportunities to work with students in other health professions, particularly in medicine and to participate in interprofessional and extracurricular activities with medical students

- Dual degree students complete the PharmD degree in May of the P4 year and are strongly encouraged to sit for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams over the summer. Students begin their training at RWJMS in July, about two months after their pharmacy graduation.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

To be considered, the applicant must have an excellent academic record, typically with a cumulative professional program GPA of 3.5 or better when applying and must maintain academic excellence for the remainder of the PharmD program.* While excellence in academic achievement is important, clinical and/or research experience, service, and leadership are also essential. Prospective students should pursue opportunities to engage in clinical settings, participate in interprofessional programs, and work with student organizations to provide community service in health-related fields.

**Important:* If the applicant's GPA is less than 3.5, he/she should submit evidence of extraordinary achievement in clinical experience, service to society, research, extracurricular activities, and other factors that indicate strong potential for the program.

Application Materials:

Applicants submit a letter to the School of Pharmacy dual degree committee with the following information:

- Reasons for applying – how this program will meet your long-term career goals and aspirations
- Clinical experience, especially employment or volunteer experience in pharmacies
- Research experience and accomplishments, *e.g.*, engagement in the research honors program, lab experience, publications, etc.
- Service to society, *e.g.*, work in soup kitchens, tutoring underprivileged children, service in developing countries, etc.
- Relevant extracurricular activities, including pharmacy active participation in pharmacy organization.
- Competitive internships
- Special educational achievements and honors, *e.g.*, competitive scholarships
- Bachelor's or graduate degree

Next Steps

The Pharmacy committee invites selected applicants for interviews. Based on the interviews, the Committee selects applicants to recommend to the RWJMS Admissions Committee. RWJMS makes the final determination on admissions. Its decisions are based on evaluation of all application materials, including the recommendations of the EMSOP committee and a series of "mini-interviews" with RWJMS faculty. The decision of the RWJMS committee is final.

Applicants are notified about admission in the spring semester. Dual degree students are strongly encouraged to take a leadership role in interprofessional education programs as they complete the PharmD and begin the MD program.

Once students begin the RWJMS curriculum, specialized enrichment options may be available that will

provide opportunities to take advantage of the students' extensive knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, and pharmacy practice. Dual degree students can play an important role in strengthening the program by building opportunities for medical students and pharmacy students to work together, inside and outside of the classroom.

Questions?

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity and have any questions, please arrange to meet with Professor Grace Guo (Chair) (guo@eohsi.rutgers.edu), Senior Associate Dean Goldin (Co-Chair) (csg@pharmacy.rutgers.edu), or any of the other members of the EMSOP committee.

EMSOP PharmD/MD Dual Degree Committee Members

Grace Guo, Professor (Chair)

Carol Goldin, Senior Associate Dean (Co-Chair)

Joseph Barone, Dean and Professor II

Luigi Brunetti, Associate Professor

Suzie Chen, Distinguished Professor & Chair, Dept of Chemical Biology

Deepali Dixit, Clinical Associate Professor

Donna Feudo, Associate Dean for Experiential Education

Arash Hatefi, Professor

Debra Laskin, Distinguished Professor & Chair, Dept of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Megan Maroney, Clinical Associate Professor

Yekaterina Opsha, Clinical Associate Professor

Mary Wagner, Associate Professor

Revised September 8, 2022