

June 1, 2021

Dear Class of 2027,

Congratulations on your admission to Rutgers University, and welcome to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy! While we find ourselves working to navigate these uncertain times due to the global pandemic, we do hope you are enjoying the last weeks of your high school career and feeling excited as you begin to prepare for your first semester of college and become a member of the Rutgers community!

Like the rest of the faculty and staff at Rutgers, we would I like to extend a warm welcome and offer some important information for you as you embark on this new journey as a Scarlet Knight, and more specifically a PharmD student.

As you may already be aware, the University is working together to welcome students back to campus for the Fall 2021 semester; and in doing so, your health and safety remain our paramount concern. For more information on the University status and COVID-related information, please click [here](#). In order to provide you with important information regarding Fall 2021 registration and to hopefully answer some of your questions regarding your academics prior to the start of first semester of college, below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions, each with a response, that I hope you find helpful.

**Q: Will all of my fall courses be taught in-person or virtually?**

A: The directive from the University President is to welcome students for in-person instruction for Fall 2021; and our goal is to have students enrolled in as many in-person courses as possible. This means we will aim to place all students in as many in-person courses as possible. However, please note, the course meeting details are organized by the respective academic department and there are some courses that may be hybrid (both in-person and virtual).

**Q: How do I register for Fall 2021 classes?**

A: Unlike other Rutgers units, you do not attend an "Advising Day." The EMSOP Office of Academic Services will register you for all required pharmacy courses for Fall 2021.

**Q: When will I receive my fall schedule?**

A: Schedules will be available for viewing on or around August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Will I be able to make changes to my schedule?**

A: Yes. You will be able to make changes to your schedule when the add/drop period begins (late August, date to be announced). More details will be sent to your email as the date nears. Additionally, I will be hosting virtual "Quick Guide to Add/Drop" sessions in mid-August. Additional details of the platform and virtual meeting time will be sent to your email as the date nears.

**Q: Am I required to take a Byrne Seminar?**

A: Unless you are a member of the Honors College, you are not required to complete a Byrne Seminar for the PharmD program. Byrne Seminars are offered during the Fall and Spring semesters of your first year. If you would like to take a Byrne Seminar in your fall semester, you will be able to add one to your schedule during the add/drop period. To learn more about Byrne Seminars click [here](#).

**Q: What if I am in the Honors College, how can I add honors courses to my fall schedule?**

A: The Office of Academic Services is aware of students in the Honors College and we build your schedule in accordance with Honors College requirements. We work to include at least 1-2 Honors College requirements in your fall schedule.

**Q: How can I transfer dual enrollment (aka college credits while taken in high school)?**

A: Please keep in mind that dual enrollment credits do count toward the maximum limit of 8 credits that are permitted for transfer. If you would like any dual enrollment credits reviewed for eligibility, complete the following steps:

1. Email your NAME, RUID and name of the college you attended to [academicervices@pharmacy.rutgers.edu](mailto:academicervices@pharmacy.rutgers.edu) – in the subject line enter:

**"Class of 2027-College Credits for Review"**

2. Please send an official copy of the college transcript to:

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
Attn: Academic Services, Room 277A  
160 Frelinghuysen Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020

*\*\*\*Please note, if the college you attended send electronic official copies, that is fine, we will accept that, just please still send us an email (step 1).*

**Q: Do I need to take a placement exam?**

A: All incoming students are required to take a placement exam, unless they meet one of the exemptions listed [here](#) (please read page 7). If you do not meet an exemption AND you have NOT taken a placement exam yet, please do so immediately.

**Q: Why is myRutgers Dashboard still showing that my AP scores have not been received, even though I sent them already?**

A: Sometimes there is a delay in the myRutgers Dashboard being updated, as the University Undergraduate Admissions Office receives large amounts of documents for incoming students on a daily basis. Please be patient for the system to update. If you have concerns about your myRutgers Dashboard, please reach out to Undergraduate Admissions directly, not Academic Services.

**Q: Am I required to take a foreign language?**

A. No. Pharmacy students are not required to complete a foreign language as a degree requirement. However, if you wish to continue the study of a language you took in high school while at Rutgers, you must take a foreign language placement exam. Foreign language courses will count as humanities/social science elective credit. If you wish to study a language that you do NOT have any prior knowledge of, you are NOT required to take the foreign language placement exam. All foreign language placement exam information can be found [here](#).

**Q: I have AP or Dual Enrollment credits for English Composition, do I still need to take Expository Writing?**

A: Pharmacy students are required to complete two college writing courses that must be taken at Rutgers University during their first pre-professional year. ALL Pharmacy students are required to take Expository Writing I at Rutgers University – no exceptions to this policy. Your AP or Dual Enrollment credits for English Composition or English Literature/Language may be used to satisfy humanities/ss elective credits if you so choose.

**Q: How do I accept AP credit? And how will this impact my first semester schedule?**

A: Expect to receive an email during the first week of August containing an “AP Offer Letter.” In this email you will be notified of the AP credits you are eligible to earn credit for, and there will be instructions on how to formally accept the credits. Please accept credits by the deadline provided in the email. *\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: The email will be sent to the email you used on your application to Rutgers. For some of you we understand you may have used your high school email address, which is no longer active. For those of you that used your high school email address, we will send the AP Offer Letter to your Rutgers University email, so please be sure to check that email address.*

**Q: What if I accept AP credit for a fall required course, how does that impact my fall schedule?**

A: The Office of Academic Services will remove the course from your fall schedule and replace it with a required humanities/social science course.

**Q: During the add/drop period, can I remove/drop required science courses?**

A: NO. All students are required to maintain required science and writing courses on their fall schedule. The Pharmacy curriculum is mandatory and much of the curriculum is sequential – this means a course may only be offered in the fall, and if you remove the course, you run the risk of being off track and potentially held back in the program.

**Q: As an incoming first-year, who is my academic advisor?**

A: Dean Sclafani serves as the academic advisor for pre-professional students in the program. Her and the Academic Services staff will offer support throughout your enrollment in the PharmD program. Dean Sclafani will be offering virtual advising appointments beginning in late August around the start of Add/Drop – please monitor your email for notifications of available advising sessions.



Academic Orientation: Unlike years past, due to the global pandemic we will be welcoming you with electronic pre-recorded First Year Orientation materials, which will be sent to your emails in mid-August for you to review. In an effort to welcome you virtually, we will also be hosting a virtual Q&A session with Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy staff, on **Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**. Details of the platform that will be used and time to “meet” will be sent to your email as the dates nears. We want to assure you, however, that we remain available virtually to assist you with all of your academic planning questions!

For any additional questions, you may email [academicservices@pharmacy.rutgers.edu](mailto:academicservices@pharmacy.rutgers.edu)

Sincerely,

*Laura Sclafani*

Dean Sclafani  
Assistant Dean for Academic Services