

# **Curriculum Goals for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program School of Pharmacy Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Adopted by the faculty May 9, 2006**

Learning to become a member of the pharmacy profession is a demanding scholarly and experiential undertaking. This learning entails intellectual development in attaining the knowledge, higher-order thinking processes, skills, identity, values, and ethics of the pharmacy discipline. The 2003 Institute of Medicine report on the quality of health professions education articulates a vision that education for all future health professionals should prepare graduates to develop the core competencies required “to deliver patient-centered care as members of an interdisciplinary team, emphasizing evidence-based practice, quality improvement approaches, and effective utilization of informatics” (<http://books.nap.edu/books/0309087236/html/45.html#pagetop>).

The educational outcomes articulated in this document describe the essential competencies that the graduates of the VCU Doctor of Pharmacy degree program should achieve in order to render effective pharmacy care. The outcomes are consistent with the Accreditation Council for Pharmaceutical Education Standards 2007. They reflect the vision of the VCU School of Pharmacy faculty and administration for the design and assessment of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Finally, these curriculum outcomes guide curriculum oversight and outcomes assessment.

## **Pharmacy Profession**

The student shall demonstrate knowledge and practice skills of the pharmacy profession and exhibit professional behaviors in performing the pharmacist’s roles in health care delivery and society. The student shall be able to advance the profession by identifying and implementing necessary changes in pharmacy practice and health care delivery. The student will be able to practice pharmacy in all common practice settings.

## **Professionalism**

The student shall develop the professional attitudes, habits, and values required to provide ethical and compassionate patient care for the benefit of the individual and community being served.

## **Integrative Competence**

The student shall apply legal, ethical, social, cultural, economic, and professional issues, emerging technologies, and evolving biomedical, pharmaceutical, social/behavioral/administrative, and clinical sciences that may impact therapeutic outcomes.

## **Informatics and Evidence-Based Practice**

The student shall communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision-making using appropriate information technology. The student shall integrate the best research with clinical expertise and knowledge of patient needs and values for optimum care.

## **Communication Abilities**

The student shall use effective communications skills to listen to, assess health literacy, clearly inform, communicate with, and educate patients, other health care professionals, and members of the community about safe and appropriate medication use.

## **Group Citizenship and Interprofessional Teams**

The student shall demonstrate appropriate and effective interpersonal and intergroup behaviors in a variety of situations and circumstances. The student shall employ these skills to cooperate, collaborate, and integrate pharmacy care with interprofessional team members to ensure that health care is continuous, coordinated, effective, and reliable.

## **Critical Thinking and Decision-Making Abilities**

The student shall examine issues rationally and logically to evaluate, analyze and synthesize information and knowledge. The student shall integrate these abilities to identify, resolve, and prevent problems and make sound decisions.

## **Responsible Use of Values and Ethical Principles**

The student shall accept the responsibilities embodied in the principles of pharmacy care and behave ethically in professional and social contexts.

## **Self-Directed and Lifelong Learning Abilities**

The student shall effectively self-assess his/her knowledge, set appropriate learning goals, and use effective educational strategies to satisfy his/her professional learning needs on a continuing basis.

## **Social Awareness and Responsibility**

The student shall demonstrate awareness of changing societal needs for pharmacy care and take responsibility for adapting and providing quality care to a culturally, economically, and socially diverse patient population. They will promote healthy lifestyles for disease prevention, wellness, health promotion, and public health and minimize health care disparities. The student shall be able to apply population-specific data, informatics, and research processes to identify and improve public health problems and help develop health policy.

## **Patient-Centered Pharmacy Practice**

### **Patient-Centered Care**

The student shall identify, respect, and care about patients' differences, values, preferences and needs, coordinate continuous care, and share decision-making in drug therapy management. The student shall use information about patients' medical, sociobehavioral, and economic status to make recommendations for drug therapy to encourage medication adherence and optimize patients' health outcomes.

### **Patient Drug Therapy Assessment**

The student shall contribute to the database of information about the patient's drug therapy by performing a medication history, review of systems and physical assessment, and review of laboratory and diagnostic tests. The student shall assess the appropriateness of the patient's drug therapy, including a consideration of the product selected, dose, dosage form, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic characteristics of the administered drug.

### **Pharmacotherapy Plan and Decision-Making**

The student shall demonstrate the ability to make pharmacotherapeutic decisions for individual patients that take into account the safety, tolerability, efficacy, price, and simplicity of drug therapy provided. The student shall monitor the patient's response to drug therapy to prevent or resolve drug-related problem(s) in order to ensure positive outcomes. Students should be able to manage clinical patient care services and demonstrate their value.

### **Managing Pharmacotherapy Practice**

The student shall be able to manage a patient-centered practice, including establishing, marketing, and being compensated for medication therapy management and patient care services.

### **Ensure Appropriate Medication Use and Quality Improvement**

The student shall manage the medication use process for preventing, reporting, and managing medication errors and adverse events with the objective of improving patient safety and quality service. The student shall be able to apply patient- and population-specific data to minimize adverse drug events and optimize patient outcomes and participate in medication use and health policies.

### **Pharmaceutical Product Knowledge**

Students shall understand and be knowledgeable of those aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences that relate to the discovery, development, properties, formulation, and use of drugs and drug products, and medically related tests and devices, that are used to provide care to patients.

### **Develop and Manage Medication Distribution and Control Systems**

The student shall accurately interpret prescription orders and safely dispense and

administer drugs while applying professional standards and legal guidelines. The student shall use and evaluate drug acquisition, inventory control and time-sensitive medication distribution systems and related technology, while documenting and maintaining quality. Students should be able to apply principles of personnel, financial and marketing management to medication distribution and control systems in pharmacy practice.