Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Pharmaceutical Chemistry Graduate Programs

The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry offers a number of core courses designed to hone the student’s skills in aspects of physical/organic chemistry, chemical kinetics, and equilibrium phenomena, which we consider essential in understanding problems of any origin, including biological processes, on a molecular level. Every student entering the program is expected to complete these core courses successfully during the first year. In addition, students can choose from a variety of elective courses that allow them to gain knowledge and skills in areas specific to individual research project interests.

The department places emphasis on excellence in research, making every effort to ensure that students can maximize efforts on their research projects toward earning the M.S. degree in a timely fashion. The core courses are taught every year and can be completed in just 2 semesters. Students are fully supported by the department their entire time in the program and do not have teaching responsibilities.

Graduate Admission

Students with bachelor’s or master’s degrees in chemistry, pharmacy, the biological sciences, material sciences, chemical engineering or related disciplines are encouraged to seek admission. Except under unusual circumstances, we review and accept candidates for admission to fall semester only. All required materials must be received before the department can begin to consider an application.

Required materials to be sent to the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry include the following:

1. Graduate Record Examination results (not more than 5 years old) forwarded directly to Graduate Studies/Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the Educational Testing Service. Photocopies of results are not permissible. The institution code for the University of Kansas is R6871. The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry’s code is R0305.
2. Test of English as a Foreign Language results if applicable. These may not be required if you have completed a degree in an English-speaking country. The current list is limited to the U.S., England, Australia, and New Zealand. Contact the Office of Graduate Studies to learn if your institution is recognized.
3. Official transcripts from all universities/institutions in which the applicant has studied.
4. KU’s graduate application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu).
5. The application processing fee (amount varies).
6. A brief personal statement (about one page) that helps us understand why you are interested in graduate studies and specifically why KU’s department.
7. An updated copy of your resume indicating relevant experience, including educational and research experience, if applicable.
8. 3 letters of recommendation from people you believe are best qualified to comment on your potential to succeed in graduate studies. There is no template for letters of recommendation, but please make sure they are on official letterhead.

All of these items should be sent to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Attn: Nancy Helm
McCollum Laboratories
2095 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Telephone: 785-864-4822, fax: 785-864-5736, nhelm@ku.edu.

Although the department does not have a formal application deadline, the faculty begins evaluations of applications around January 15 each year. To ensure full consideration, it is highly recommended that complete applications be in the department far in advance of January 15.

Admitted students receive a competitive stipend, tuition, and basic health insurance. Students also can be selected to participate in the Takeru Higuchi and Nigel Manning Ph.D. Intersearch Program, allowing them to conduct a portion of their research at the Victorian College of Pharmacy (www.vcp.monash.edu.au (http://www.vcp.monash.edu.au)) at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in other industrial and/or academic internship programs the department offers.

A number of fellowship awards are offered to recognize academic superiority and to assist meritful students in the timely completion of their degree programs. The number of fellowships awarded each year depends upon available funds. For a description of funding opportunities for KU graduate students, visit the Graduate Studies website (http://www.gradle.ku.edu/funding-opportunities). Students with particularly outstanding undergraduate records may be eligible for special awards. The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry is a Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship Program (http://selfgraduate.ku.edu) partner at KU. The program provides a generous stipend and tuition to outstanding students for 4 years of graduate study.

At the department level, the Higuchi, Lindenbaum, Ryting, Stella, and Waugh Fellowships are awarded each year to incoming graduate students with high promise.

M.S. Degree Requirements

Except under unusual circumstances, the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry does not recruit students seeking the M.S. degree. However, all students who pass the comprehensive qualifying examinations for the Ph.D. degree receive a nonthesis M.S. degree. Students who wish to earn the terminal M.S. degree must complete satisfactorily the core curriculum recommended for the Ph.D. degree, present a thesis based on original research or a suitable technical report based on the review of published research in a particular area, and pass a final Master’s thesis defense.

Distance Master’s Degree Program

The department also offers a distance master’s program. See the website (http://pharmchem.ku.edu/admission-requirements-2) for details. This program features the same high-quality lectures and courses offered in the on-campus M.S./Ph.D. program but allows students to complete the degree while working at a remote location. Students typically take 1
course a semester. All courses offered by the department can be taken this way. For questions, contact the director of the distance master's program, John Stobaugh, 785-864-3996, stobaugh@ku.edu.