

Elective Policy  
University of Florida  
College of Pharmacy

The Doctor of Pharmacy degree program is designed with 8 semester credits of elective courses. Elective courses have been approved by the Curriculum Committee of the College of Pharmacy. The purpose of elective courses is to allow pharmacy students to broaden their pharmacy knowledge in areas that are not covered at all or in less depth in required pharmacy courses.

Descriptions of pharmacy elective courses are available on the College of Pharmacy web site at [www.cop.ufl.edu/studaff/elective/pdf](http://www.cop.ufl.edu/studaff/elective/pdf). Elective courses that require graduate tuition above the annualized tuition and fees are identified at this web site.

Pharmacy students can access these electives in the fall and spring semesters of the third professional year and the spring semester of the fourth professional year. The number of elective courses precludes students being able to take all of them or even to take specific ones due to logistical factors such as faculty time, one time offering, and enrollment caps that permit the quality of course design and instruction intended for an elective course.

The faculty must make elective courses available to pharmacy students at all four campus sites. A limiting factor on this mandate is the demand by pharmacy students for specific courses. If the demand is not sufficient as defined by the course coordinator, the elective course may not be offered on that campus. Generally, there must be a critical mass of pharmacy students to take certain electives. If the demand is insufficient, the course coordinator can decide not to offer the elective course.

In addition to the above limitation, the resources to offer an elective course can also be dependent on the availability of faculty facilitators at the campus site, which is correlated with the demand for an elective. If an elective has adequate demand, funds will be expended to hire a faculty member to facilitate and/or teach the course. If the demand for this course wanes due to many drops, then the course may have to be offered regardless of the enrollment or be discontinued. This outcome is not desired because it results in a waste of time, energy, and financial resources by administration and faculty.

In the past, many pharmacy students would register for more elective courses than they planned to take in order to select an elective once they knew more about the class schedule, work schedules, and/or plans to commute to a distance education campus from Gainesville as a 4PD student. This process can promote a waste of resources if a planned elective must be cancelled due to many students dropping the course. In addition, the changing of electives “at the last minute” takes a significant amount of administrative time by administration and coordinators of student affairs.

To better control access to and management of elective courses the following procedures and policies will be followed:

- ❖ Specific deadlines for selecting pharmacy courses as electives will be posted on the College of Pharmacy web site. Students will be notified by email about these dates.
- ❖ Students will select preferences for electives in rank of 1, 2, 3, and 4 using a form on the College of Pharmacy web site.
- ❖ Enrollment for courses will be filled using the number one ranking. If more students select a course than positions available, a random draw will be initiated. Overflow requests for a particular course will be designated for the number two ranked course. If this causes an overflow of requests, the number 2 ranked requests will be randomized. Those not selected will be assigned to the number 3 ranked elective. This process will be repeated if necessary.
- ❖ Students will not have the ability to add an elective course through ISIS. If a student drops an elective course through ISIS, he or she will not be added into another elective course. **Thus, a non-approved drop of a course through ISIS can possibly result in a delay of the expected graduation date because the student will be out of sequence with regard to completion of elective course requirements for the PharmD degree.**
- ❖ Once course enrollment caps have been established, changes in the caps will not be permitted to allow students to add a course.
- ❖ If an elective is not chosen using the prescribed preference system, students will be placed in electives which may or may not be covered under block tuition.