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## From the college

Dear Friends:



The nationwide shortage of pharmacists has drawn considerable attention from health professionals and the general public. As colleges of Pharmacy across the country have expanded to admit more students into the Doctor of Pharmacy programs, an acute shortage of qualified faculty members has also developed. Advanced postgraduate training required to prepare future Pharmacy faculty members may take the form of residencies to enhance clinical skills, and/or fellowships and graduate education to provide skills in research.

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy offers graduate education in the traditional disciplines in pharmaceutical sciences: medicinal chemistry, nuclear pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, pharmacy administration, and toxicology. The Department of Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences is comprised of faculty members in both the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences. We currently have 13 full time and part time students pursuing graduate degrees in the College of Pharmacy.

While the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum provides students with information and training that are necessary for the profession of Pharmacy, graduate education provides the skills that are needed to answer questions in areas where little information exists. Graduate education is directed by faculty scientists who are seeking to expand the knowledge base in their area of expertise. At the same time, graduate students contribute new ideas and energy into the research programs of their faculty mentors. Thus, graduate education provides a means of increasing scholarship of faculty and students alike. Furthermore, a successful graduate program is a key ingredient to recruitment and retention of innovative faculty members.

Students who enter the graduate program at the College of Pharmacy may work toward either a Master of Science (M.S.) or a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. The M.S. degree requires completion of at least 30 hours of graduate coursework, a research project leading to a Masters thesis, and usually takes at least two years to complete. The Ph.D. degree is preferred for advanced training, because it prepares students to become independent scientists who will qualify for positions in academia, research institutes, government, or industry. Students seeking the Ph.D. degree must complete a minimum of 90 hours of graduate coursework, pass a qualifying examination, and conduct a dissertation research project.

The College of Pharmacy recently developed a dual degree program through which qualified students may simultaneously work toward the Master of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degrees. The dual Pharm.D./M.S. program allows a limited number of hours to be credited toward both degrees, thus saving both time and expense for students. In order to qualify, students must complete the first year in the Pharm.D. curriculum with a minimum grade average of 3.0 before applying for admission to the dual degree program.

The OU College of Pharmacy is seeking to enhance its research capability and strengthen its graduate program. We welcome comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Lester Reinke, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Associates Presidential Professor

## Alumni News

### ▪ Dixie Bray ('02) in Hawaii

Dixie reports that she has been in Hawaii for 1 year now. She is currently Chief of Outpatient Pharmacy Services for Tripler Army Medical Center.

Friends and classmates can contact her via email at [dixie.bray@amedd.army.mil](mailto:dixie.bray@amedd.army.mil). She would love to hear from you all.

## Job Openings

### The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City

- Nuclear Staff Pharmacist
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Research Assistant II
- Research Associate

### The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Schusterman Center, Tulsa

- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Assistant/Associate Professor

### Eckerd Drug Company

- Pharmacist

### Wal-Mart Stores, Inc

- Staff Pharmacist and/or Assistant Pharmacy Manager
- Staff Pharmacist