



The following Motion and Document were considered by the GFC Academic Planning Committee at its Wednesday, January 22, 2014 meeting:

Agenda Title: **Proposed Conversion of the Clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) Degree to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree**

CARRIED MOTION: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to convert clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degrees to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees, as set forth in the attached proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to be effective upon approval.

Final Item: 4

OUTLINE OF ISSUE

Agenda Title: **Proposed Conversion of the Clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) Degree to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree**

Motion: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, the proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to convert clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degrees to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees, as set forth in the attached proposal submitted by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to be effective upon approval.

Item

Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Proposed by	Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Presenter	Jim Kehrer, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Subject	Conversion of existing clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degrees to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees

Details

Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)	To convert clinical MPharm degrees to PharmD degrees for eligible graduates of the MPharm program.
The Impact of the Proposal is	Minimal. Fewer than 20 students will be eligible for this degree conversion.
Replaces/Revises (eg, policies, resolutions)	N/A
Timeline/Implementation Date	Upon approval, though no conversions will take place until after the first class of PharmD graduates convokes, anticipated to occur in November, 2014.
Estimated Cost	N/A
Sources of Funding	N/A
Notes	N/A

Alignment/Compliance

Alignment with Guiding Documents	<i>Dare to Deliver and Dare to Discover</i>
Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please quote legislation and include identifying section numbers)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA): The <i>PSLA</i> gives GFC responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over academic affairs (Section 26(1)). PSLA: GFC may make recommendations to the Board of Governors on a number of matters including the budget and academic planning (Section 26(1)(o)). GFC delegates its power to recommend to the Board on the budget and on new or revised academic programs to the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC). PSLA: The <i>PSLA</i> gives Faculty Councils the authority to “determine the programs of study for which the faculty is established” (Section 29(1)(a)); to “provide for the admission of students to the faculty” (Section 29(1)(c)); and to “determine the conditions under which a student must withdraw from or may continue the student’s program of studies in a faculty” (Section 29(1)(d)).

FINAL Item No. 4

	<p>4. GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) Terms of Reference (Mandate): GFC delegated the following to GFC APC, the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Dean of FGSR:</p> <p>“Existing Undergraduate and Graduate Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension and/or Substantive Revision of Existing Programs - Revisions to or Extension of Existing Degree Designations <p>All proposals for major changes to existing undergraduate and graduate programs (eg, new degree designation, new curriculum) shall be submitted to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). [...]</p> <p>The Provost and Vice-President (Academic), after consultation with relevant Offices, committees or advisors[,] will place the proposal before APC. APC has the final authority to approve such proposals unless, in the opinion of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the proposal should be forwarded to GFC with an attendant recommendation from APC. [...]” (3.13.)</p>
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Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultative Route (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)	Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Office of the Registrar; University Governance; Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; Legal Counsel
Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)	Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Council (January 14, 2014) – for recommendation; Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (e-vote; concluding January 20, 2014) – for recommendation; GFC Academic Planning Committee (January 22, 2014) – for final approval
Final Approver	GFC Academic Planning Committee (January 22, 2014)

Attachments (each to be numbered 1 - <>)

1. Attachment 1 (pages 1 – 4) – Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) to Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Conversion Proposal

Prepared by: Kathleen Brough, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), kathleen.brough@ualberta.ca

Master of Pharmacy to Doctor of Pharmacy Conversion Proposal

For review and consideration by the GFC Academic Planning Committee

January 10, 2014

The University of Alberta, through the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a small number of requests by holders of the clinical Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree (now no longer offered by the U of A) to have their degrees converted to the new Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) credential.

Considerable consultation on these requests has been undertaken between the following offices:

- Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
- Office of the Registrar
- University Governance
- Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
- Legal Counsel

The University of Alberta's MPharm program first appeared in the University Calendar in 1975. Some evolution in the Calendar description did occur, and by the mid-1980s a specialization in clinical pharmacy in the MPharm program was noted to include course work, research and clinical training completed over two years. The PharmD, now the standard professional credential in Pharmacy in most of North America, is considered primarily a clinical degree. The University of Alberta's PharmD program, approved in 2011, consists of 14 months of continuous full-time study, including 36 weeks of clinical rotations. A more detailed history and comparison of the two programs is attached.

After considerable discussion, and with the following conditions, we propose to convert clinical MPharm degrees to PharmD degrees for eligible and interested recipients. The conversion will be optional.

- The University of Alberta will replace clinical MPharm degrees obtained from 1985 onward, with a specialization in clinical pharmacy, with PharmD degrees. Eligible candidates must return MPharm parchments to the University of Alberta before PharmD parchments are issued. A \$60 parchment printing fee will be assessed.
- Recipients will be informed that this action reflects the replacement of a graduate degree credential with an undergraduate professional credential.
- The University of Alberta transcript will state that the Doctor of Pharmacy was converted from the degree of Master of Pharmacy and will provide the date of the conversion.
- The Dean's office in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will contact eligible graduates and will be responsible for confirming eligibility.
- The University of Alberta will not replace Master of Pharmacy credentials with Doctor of Pharmacy credentials until the first class of Doctor of Pharmacy graduates convokes. We anticipate that this will be in November, 2014.

MPharm/PharmD History and Comparison

There is no single definition of a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) degree resulting in variability in programs. However, comparable minimum requirements have been established by accrediting bodies in Canada and the USA that are exceeded by the University of Alberta PharmD program.

The PharmD is regarded as a clinical doctorate degree. The PharmD was first awarded in the USA in 1915 for 4 years of study, but was discontinued in 1938. The degree reappeared in 1948 as a 6 year degree program (2 years of pre-pharmacy plus 4 years of pharmacy similar to today) and In 1950, the University of Southern California was the first school to award the PharmD as the entry to practice degree. However, at most other schools of pharmacy, the PharmD degree was seen as an optional advanced degree for those pursuing academia, research, or clinical pharmacy. In the 1950s and 1960s, other PharmD programs became available across the United States. Programs typically required one year of course work and one year of clinical experiential training after completing a BSc in pharmacy. Some programs required research projects. In the 1980s, an increasing number of schools began implementing an entry-level PharmD similar to the University of Southern California model.

In 1992 the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy voted to require that all accredited pharmacy schools offer entry level PharmD degrees. By 2000, all pharmacy schools in the United States adopted the PharmD degree as the sole degree being offered in pharmacy. The Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada and the Deans of Pharmacy voted in 2010 to implement PharmD degrees for entry-to-practice by 2020 in all pharmacy schools.

To address demand for clinical degrees in Canada, some schools of pharmacy offered Masters of Science (Clinical Pharmacy) degree programs that combined course work, research and clinical practice (e.g. University of Montreal), usually in hospitals with a residency. The University of Alberta offered the MPharm degree, first appearing in the Calendar in 1975. While the description changed over the years, by the mid1980s, a specialization in clinical pharmacy was noted to include course work, research, and clinical training (PHARM 595) completed over two years.

Until recently, there were two post-graduate PharmD programs in Canada. The first post-graduate PharmD program was introduced by University of British Columbia in 1991 and was comprised of 8 months of coursework followed by 12 months of clinical training. A similar post-graduate PharmD program was introduced by University of Toronto in 1992. Today, the University of Toronto, University of Montreal and Laval University offer entry-level PharmD programs and the post-graduate program at Toronto is being phased out.

In 2013, the University of Alberta implemented a post-professional PharmD degree program that can be completed in approximately 14 months of continuous, full time study. The total time to a PharmD approximates that of entry-level PharmD programs. A comparison of the MPharm and PharmD degrees is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Comparison of the MPharm and PharmD degree programs at the University of Alberta

	MPharm 1975-	PharmD 2013 -
Description	Two year program combining academic coursework, professional experience, and research in a professional environment leading to a thesis (thesis requirement dropped in 1985; project required). Areas of specialization: 1) radiopharmacy and 2) clinical pharmacy (noted to include courses in drug information, hospital practice)	A 14 month program combining coursework and experiential education in patient care. No areas of specialization noted. Clinical experiences noted to include community, hospital, team-based practice.
Admission requirements	BScPharm Alberta Pharmacy Practice License (Added in 1986-7)	BScPharm Alberta Pharmacy Practice License
Course work (classroom)	30 Credits required in biological and health sciences (not specified) Notations regarding a combination of required and elective courses.	Required Courses are specified 18 credits
Experiential (clinical rotations)	PHARM 595 (900 hours of structured approved clinical training) (Since 1984 – <i>check with RO</i>)	PHARM 511, 512, 513, 515 36 credits/weeks - (approx. 1440 hours)
Project/Research	Yes	No

References

Ahmed SI, Ahmad Hassali MA. (2008). The controversy of PharmD degree. *Am J Pharm Educ*, (3):72. Article 71.

Boyden, K. (2006). Generation Rx: A study of the change over to the entry level PharmD degree in pharmacy education. Dissertation. University of Pennsylvania

Brocks, D. (2012). Report to Dean Kehrer: History of the MPharm degree at the University of Alberta.

University of British Columbia. (2013). Post-graduate Doctor of Pharmacy Program. <http://www.pharmacy.ubc.ca/programs/degree-programs/PharmD>

University of Toronto. (2013). Post-baccalaureate Doctor of Pharmacy. <http://www.pharmacy.utoronto.ca/post-bac-pharmd>