About us

The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy is a world-class research institution and one of the country’s premier pharmacy schools. We train pharmacists who serve the people of Kansas and researchers who help solve the world’s most pressing medical problems. Whether our students pursue careers in pharmacy practice or research in industry, academia, or government laboratories, they study under some of the world’s most respected and accomplished pharmaceutical scientists and clinicians.

State-of-the-art technology has helped us bridge the distance between our campuses in Kansas City, Lawrence, and Wichita. Those advances, along with the new building in Lawrence and the new facilities in Wichita, have allowed us to increase our incoming class size from 105 to 170 students and to make a pharmacy education accessible to a more diverse group of students.
Vision

“The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy will improve the health of our state, its residents, and the world through excellence in didactic, experiential, and interprofessional education, basic and applied research, service, and the advancement of all aspects of patient-centered care.”

Mission

The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy provides exceptional educational opportunities for professional, graduate, and postgraduate students. Through exemplary curricula and programs, the school encourages the advancement of patient-centered care to enhance health. The school maintains a leadership role in developing innovative technologies and pharmaceuticals and conducting drug therapy related research inclusive of basic, clinical, and administrative sciences for the state, nation, and world.
Values

Our values support a culture that exemplifies:

- commitment to excellence, innovation, and integrity in education, research, clinical practice, and service.
- dedication to the discovery of new knowledge and the advancement of the pharmacy profession.
- contemporary educational programs and research agendas.
- inclusivity, transparency, and communication to support interprofessional education and interdisciplinary research.
- respect of the dignity, rights, culture, and diversity of each other and the populations we serve.
- rigorous evaluation, assessment, and the professional development of our faculty, staff, preceptors, and students and support for their roles as active, self-directed, lifelong learners.

Educational Philosophy

Upon completion of the PharmD program at KU, our students will have a strong foundation in science and will be practice-ready for team-based care. They will have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to deliver patient-centered care as interprofessional team members, and will contribute to the advancement of the profession of pharmacy. Our graduates are proficient at translating basic science knowledge into clinical applications; providing comprehensive pharmacist-delivered patient-centered care; managing resources and systems effectively and efficiently; and providing population-based health care. To promote attainment of these goals a variety of educational strategies are used, including traditional classroom instruction, case studies, laboratory exercises, reflective writing, standardized client assessment, small group discussion, and practice-based experiences. Faculty routinely explore novel teaching methods to further advance the effectiveness of our curriculum. Through these educational strategies, students acquire a strong foundation in biomedical, pharmaceutical, social, behavioral, administrative, and clinical science principles and possess the ability to integrate and apply learned information within our program and in interprofessional learning environments. As students progress through the curriculum, they transition from being a dependent learner to an active, self-directed, lifelong learner.
Programmatic Goals

The following represents the educational, research, service and clinical practice goals of the SOP. Achievement of these goals is accomplished through the specific initiatives outlined in our strategic plan. Goal attainment is routinely assessed and evaluated by key stakeholders of our program, including administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other relevant constituents.

Educational goals:
• Attract strong candidates to our professional, graduate, and postdoctoral programs.
• Excellence in didactic, experiential, and interprofessional education as evident by our professional students’ proficiency in:
  • translating basic science knowledge into clinical applications
  • providing comprehensive pharmacist-delivered patient-centered care, including medication therapy management
  • managing resources and systems effectively and efficiently
  • providing population-based health care

• Our PharmD graduates are capable of delivering care as interprofessional team members, and contributing to the advancement of the profession of pharmacy through advanced pharmacy practice, organizational involvement, and in select career paths, providing scholarly contributions to the profession.

Research goals:
• Our faculty maintain a leadership role in developing innovative technologies and pharmaceuticals, and conducting research inclusive of the basic, clinical, and administrative sciences.
• Given the global impact and importance of our faculty’s research, we strive to be consistently ranked among the top schools of pharmacy that receive federal research funding.

Service goals:
• Our faculty serve the residents of the state of Kansas and the nation by:
  • educating future pharmacists and researchers
  • making innovative discoveries to improve health
  • sharing expertise with the pharmaceutical and health-care industries
• Our students and faculty contribute to local, state, and national professional organizations and committees.

Clinical practice goals:
• Our pharmacy practice faculty enhance the practice of pharmacy through advanced patient care models, involvement with professional organizations, and advocacy for the profession of pharmacy.
Revision of the School of Pharmacy’s strategic plan was prompted by the expiration of the previous five-year plan and coincides with the university’s new strategic plan summarized under the title of “Bold Aspirations.” This plan was developed by the school’s faculty and administrative and executive committees during twice-a-semester meetings and faculty breakfast retreats. Input was requested and received from students, alumni, staff, and university administration, all of whom are dedicated to the issues in the curriculum and continued growth of the school.

This document serves as a strategic plan for the school’s administration of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Program and a plan to support the graduate programs in each of the four departments. Each department has a strategic plan specific to the responsibilities of its discipline, contributions to instruction in the professional program, and administration of individual graduate research programs. The faculty approved this plan on March 15, 2013.

These goals and objectives will guide the School of Pharmacy for the period 2013-2018. The specific goals are not presented in order of importance to the mission of the School of Pharmacy. The goals are segmented into the areas of professional program education, graduate education and research, and service.
Goal 1: Advancement of Professional Program Education

Strategy 1: Maintain and enhance the programmatic excellence of the professional program.

- By Spring 2013, the dean’s office will implement a plan for the school’s participation in translational research through the training of professional students, specifically the CTSA (Clinical and Transitional Science Awards) program. This provides an opportunity to create a joint Pharm.D./M.S. degree in clinical research with the University of Kansas Medical Center. The school’s first PharmD/MS student entered the program in Fall, 2013.

- By Spring 2013, the school’s experiential education director should develop written plans for continuous training and development of introductory and advanced program preceptors.

- By Spring 2013, the school’s curriculum committee should develop and implement electives to integrate pharmaceutical sciences with pharmacy/medical practice in select aspects of the Pharm.D. Curriculum to illustrate the relationship/importance of these topics to one another. PROGRESS - PHAR 599, an inter-departmental, team-based elective course, with instructors from the basic and clinical science departments within the School of Pharmacy, has been added to the electives schedule for Fall 2013. Enrollment was increased after the course reached its capacity.

- By Fall 2013, Department of Pharmacy Practice faculty will develop and implement a plan to occupy the school’s Drug Information space. PROGRESS- The Drug Information Center is scheduled to open an office on the Lawrence campus in Fall 2013.

- By Fall 2014, the school’s curriculum committee should recommend a specific plan to promote and increase enrollment of professional students in the course “Spanish for Health Care Workers” and examine programmatic opportunities in the school to meet this growing need.

- By the Fall of 2014, the school’s curriculum committee and Pharmacy Practice faculty should make recommendations to further enhance curricular training opportunities for students in medication therapy management (MTM) and collaborative drug therapy management, including traditional classroom courses, practices in clerkships, and specific involvement in rural health care and patient-centered medical home sites.

- In Summer 2015, the assessment committee will evaluate the placement of Wichita campus graduates who reside in the Wichita area in more rural or western parts of Kansas. This has always been a primary intention of the Wichita campus.

- By Fall 2015, the dean’s office, the Department of Pharmacy Practice, ScriptPro, and Watkins Pharmacy will develop a plan to fully occupy the school’s model pharmacy space.

RELATED GOALS

KU BOLD ASPIRATIONS

Goal 1
Strengthen recruitment, teaching, and mentoring to prepare undergraduate students for lifelong learning, leadership, and success.

Goal 4
Engage local, state, national, and global communities as partners in scholarly activities that have direct
By Fall 2015, the school’s experiential education directors will identify student rotations that will expose students to quality measurement of pharmacy services, interprofessional experience, pharmacogenomics, personalized medicine, and informatics. PROGRESS - Interprofessional clinics, in Kansas City and Wichita, offer students the opportunity to work as part of an interprofessional team. The Office of Experiential Education is making progress on adding rotation sites that focus on quality measurement of pharmacy services, pharmacogenomics, personalized medicine, and informatics. The Department of Pharmacy Practice has hired a faculty member whose research focuses on informatics.

Annually, the assistant dean for experiential education will identify new IPPE (Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience) and APPE (Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience) sites in central Kansas for placement of students on the Wichita campus. Focus should be placed on sites that specialize in rural health, ambulatory care, acute care, and advanced hospital practices. PROGRESS - A number of practices sites serving rural populations have increased their availability to take IPPE and APPE students. Additionally, a number of new sites are opening in these rural areas and expressed interested in hosting IPPE and APPE students.

By Fall 2018, the school will collaborate with community practice partners to implement a PGY1 Community Pharmacy Residency Program in Wichita with a focus on expanding community practice-based clinical pharmacy services in Wichita and rural Kansas. (Annually, Pharmacy Practice faculty should explore funding opportunities to establish or expand residency and fellowship programs on all three campuses.)

Annually, maintain and work to expand exchanges of professional students with the Victorian College of Pharmacy and consider affiliations at other universities and other opportunities for students to study abroad. PROGRESS - The Victorian College of Pharmacy exchange continues with approximately two students per year participating in clerkships in Australia.

Annually, the assessment and curriculum committees will evaluate the academic environments and experiences of the Wichita and Lawrence campuses and if necessary, recommend to faculty ways to resolve significant inequities and assure similar opportunities are available to students regardless of their campus assignment. PROGRESS - Since the opening of the Wichita campus in 2011, the assessment and curriculum committees have been closely monitoring and comparing the Wichita and Lawrence campuses. Thus far, no significant inequities have been discovered. However, the committees will continue to monitor this annually.
• The dean will meet quarterly with the State of Kansas’ Tripartite Committee (the dean and the executive directors of the state board of pharmacy and the Kansas Pharmacists Association) to consider all topics that affect and benefit pharmacy in Kansas. **PROGRESS - Tripartite meetings continue on a regular basis and routinely address legislative issues and education issues affecting Kansas Pharmacy.**

• Annually, the school will meet with the Pharmacy Advisory Council to discuss planning and development of the school, specifically in identifying resources based on state and/or national trends in the profession to support the school’s mission. **PROGRESS - The advisory council meeting was held in April 2013. The council received updates regarding the budget, curricular changes, the skills lab curriculum, activities sponsored by student organizations, and the graduate programs. It was suggested that we increase the student’s exposure to informatics as it is becoming more prevalent. The Office of Experiential Education is in the process of adding APPE in informatics. Additionally, the Department of Pharmacy Practice has hired a faculty member whose research focuses on informatics.**

• The school will meet with alumni, students, faculty, and friends at the annual meetings of the American Pharmacists Association and the American Society of Health System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting. **PROGRESS The SOP hosted receptions for alumni and friends that provided professors, students, and administrators the opportunity to network and exchange ideas.**
Strategy 2: Attract and retain the best possible professional program applicants to the School of Pharmacy.

- By Spring 2013, the school’s director of assessment and senior associate dean for administration should finalize and implement an advising plan for professional students. PROGRESS - An advising program for professional students was implemented in Spring 2013.

- By Fall 2014, the dean’s office will work with the provost’s office to explore a recruitment plan and options for offering in-state tuition to high-quality students living near the borders of states surrounding Kansas. PROGRESS - Discussions with the Provost’s Office were initiated in the Spring 2013 in light of recent approval by the KBOR to make discounted tuition available to Kansas City, MO residents attending classes on the KU Edwards campus.

- By Fall 2014, the administrative committee will recommend to the faculty enrollment goals for the Lawrence and Wichita campuses for academic year 2015-2016 and beyond.

- Annually, the dean’s office will conduct professional student outreach and recruitment activities for under-represented minorities, particularly those of Hispanic origin. PROGRESS - The dean’s office has participated in several minority recruitment events sponsored by KU and pursued contacts with under-represented minority college and high school students across the state. Efforts to recruit under-represented minorities will continue.

Strategy 3. Enhance innovative mechanisms to deliver courses and programs through novel information technology resources.

- By Fall 2013, the dean’s office will evaluate the further incorporation of iPads and applications in support of the Pharm.D. Program. Specifically, how effective the program has been in terms of creating opportunities for faculty to diversify teaching approaches and methods. PROGRESS - The assessment committee surveyed 3P students and faculty to determine how the SOP could further integrate the iPads into the curriculum. Based on this feedback, the dean’s office will begin training faculty on various iPad apps and ways to integrate the iPad into the curriculum.

Strategy 1: Identify, develop, and provide resources to support research programs in the school.

- By Fall 2018, the dean’s office will work with the provost’s office and other stakeholders to identify funding for the construction of additional modern research space for the School of Pharmacy on the west campus in support the graduate research programs.
• Annually, the dean’s office and departments will host the graduate honors program research symposium for grad students and post-docs to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of the research programs.  

PROGRESS - The annual symposium was held in January 2013.

Strategy 2: Support the Higuchi Biosciences Center, Center on Aging, Life Span Institute, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Neuroscience Center, Bioengineering Institute, and other relevant centers as they are formed to publicize their missions and their accomplishments.

• Annually, the school will promote the centers through support of the development of individual grants, contracts, and program projects from the school, KU, and KUMC centers or institutes. PROGRESS - Faculty continue to use the HBC to facilitate collaborative grant activity across departments, campuses, and other institutions. The School of Pharmacy’s Associate Dean for Research is also the Assistant Director of HBC and helps raise the visibility of the center’s offerings. Three COBRE directors and the Specialized Chemistrity Center directors are members of our faculty.

Strategy 3: Maintain the current departmental structure of four departments, which has traditionally been a major strength of the School of Pharmacy.

• Annually, the dean’s office and administrative committee will review faculty and staffing and pursue budget support through the state, course fees, tuition, and private funding to appropriately support the education, research, and service missions of the School of Pharmacy and individual departments. PROGRESS - School’s Administrative Committee continues to work together to deal with FY2014 and projected FY2015 budget cuts and limit the impact on the School’s education and research missions, staff, and faculty.

Strategy 4: Enhance interdepartmental cooperation within the School of Pharmacy in the recruitment and teaching of graduate students.

• By the Fall of 2015, the dean’s office and department chairs in Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Pharmacology & Toxicology will develop a strategy for funding recruitment visits for graduate students.

• The dean’s office and department chairs in Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Pharmacology & Toxicology will continually encourage faculty and work to identify joint graduate course teaching and cross-training opportunities within the School of Pharmacy.
Strategy 5: Enhance interdepartmental research and scholarly activity within the School of Pharmacy.

- By the Fall of 2015, the dean’s office and department chairs in Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Pharmacology & Toxicology will develop a strategy to fund first-year graduate teaching assistantships or graduate student support, bridge grants, and permanent research staff.

- The school will continue the graduate honors program to promote better knowledge and understanding of research ongoing in the four departments. Faculty and administrators will also explore additional mechanisms to allow faculty to gain better awareness of one another’s interests and skills.

Goal 3: Enhance fiscal resources of the School

RELATED GOALS

KU BOLD ASPIRATIONS

Goal 6

Responsible steward our fiscal and physical resources and energize supporters to expand the resource base.

Strategy 1: Gain parity in faculty compensation, development, and reward structures commensurate with the quality exhibited by the School of Pharmacy faculty.

- The dean’s office and department chairs will continually work with the school’s KU Endowment development officer in support of the University of Kansas’ capital campaign, which will run through 2016. Primary goals are to increase funding in four major areas: professorships, scholarships, fellowships, and unrestricted funds.