

Idaho State
UNIVERSITY
College of Pharmacy

Curricular Philosophy Statement

Approved February 16, 2017

The goal of the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy is to provide an educational environment that develops caring pharmacotherapy experts who positively impact the health care needs of our patients and who are effective interprofessional team members. An essential premise is that ISU graduates must be capable of managing the therapy of patients with multiple co-morbidities receiving complex drug regimens. To this end, we deliver a highly integrated curriculum taught in parallel with a small group, problem-based learning format. The primary curricular goal is the development of a strong foundational knowledge in the biomedical, pharmaceutical, and clinical sciences that includes the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process and fosters an evidenced-based approach to optimizing pharmacotherapy and patient health outcomes. Because it is a dynamic work in progress, we continue to experiment, assess, revise, and innovate within our curriculum to graduate highly competent practitioners.

The College of Pharmacy maximizes student engagement through sound instructional design. Knowledge, skills, and abilities are reinforced and built upon throughout the curriculum using a variety of techniques. We embrace diversity in innovative teaching methods and encourage the integration of active learning components into the traditional lecture style of course delivery, along with a robust use of technology and multiple curricular and co-curricular opportunities for leadership and professional development. We believe that socialization to the profession is crucial for the development of student pharmacists with the requisite interpersonal skills to effectively advocate for their patients with other healthcare providers. The socialization process occurs during synchronous classroom learning, collaborative learning in small group case studies and skills laboratories, the delivery of community outreach projects, shadowing of clinical pharmacists, and other experiential learning.

We view the curriculum as a tool to develop professionals who assume responsibility for their own learning and who are committed to the advancement of pharmacy practice. Our faculty has high expectations regarding attitudes, professional behavior, and performance. The desired result is a practice-ready generalist pharmacist with a highly developed sense of professional self, who upholds high standards of behavior in all settings. The state of Idaho provides a unique, patient-focused rural environment for students to develop the ability to make safe and cost-effective recommendations to optimize complex pharmacotherapy regimens in the context of a medical home model of practice.