

MISSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN THE AMERICAS

The following mission statement for pharmaceutical education envisions both a broad-based and nation-specific approach. It is proposed to serve as a guide to all pharmacy educators throughout the Americas, with special consideration to individual national priorities and conditions. Further, it is recognized that individual faculties of pharmacy, for social, political and/or economic reasons may choose to modify or elaborate on this mission statement.

Pharmaceutical education throughout the Americas is responsible for preparing students to begin the practice of pharmacy as vital members of the health care team or to assume other roles where pharmacists' knowledge and skills are required. Pharmaceutical education will also prepare students to function as professionals and informed citizens in a changing health care environment. It is responsible for generating and disseminating new knowledge about pharmaceuticals and about the role of pharmaceuticals in the unique health care system of each American country.

Pharmaceutical education provides students with the values necessary to serve society as caring, ethical, learning professionals and enlightened citizens. It provides students with scientific fundamentals and fosters attitudes necessary to adapt their careers to changes in health care needs over a lifetime. It also encourages students prior to and after graduation to take active roles in shaping policies, practices and future directions of the profession and national health priorities.

Pharmaceutical education maintains a dynamic, challenging and comprehensive curriculum which provides:

- general education in the sciences and humanities;
- a foundation in the administrative, biological, biomedical, clinical, pharmaceutical, physical and social sciences that are the basis for the pharmacist's professional roles and underlying research;
- experiences in developing communicative, interpersonal and problem-solving skills;
- a foundation in social, ethical, legal and economic issues involved in pharmacy and health care; and
- experiences in appropriate pharmacy practice settings and environments (e.g., community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, pharmaceutical industry).

Pharmaceutical education is responsible to the profession and society for generating new knowledge about pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical products, and medication therapy and use through the conduct of basic and applied research. It promotes the pharmaceutical sciences by fostering graduate education and research.

Pharmaceutical education continually evaluates its mission, goals, objectives and outcomes overall throughout the Americas and relative to specific, unique conditions in individual countries. It determines and implements necessary changes in the nature and scope of education and research performed within the purview of pharmaceutical education.