

May 13, 2025

W. Randy Smith, PhD
Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Office of Academic Affairs
University Square South
15 E. 15th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

Dear Randy,

The College of Pharmacy proposes the implementation of a minimum grade requirement of C– for core required upper-level courses within the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS) curriculum, including the following:

- PHR3100: Human Physiology and Disease
- PHR3200: Biochemistry for the Pharmaceutical Sciences
- PHR4000 and 4010: Molecules to Medicine I and II: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Pharmaceutical Sciences
- PHR4600: Pharmaceutical Sciences Laboratory
- PHR4610: Experimental Techniques in Drug Discovery

This data-informed change, proposed to start in AU25, is intended to support student success and ensure that program learning outcomes are met consistently and effectively.

This proposal was approved by the college's Undergraduate Studies Committee in March 2025 and by the full college faculty in April 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nicole Cartwright Kweek, PhD, FAAPE
Clinical Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Educational Innovation
The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy

Proposal to Establish a C– Minimum Grade Requirement for Core Courses in the BSPS Major

Rationale:

The College of Pharmacy proposes the implementation of a minimum grade requirement of C– for core upper-level courses within the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS) curriculum including the following:

- PHR3100: Human Physiology and Disease
- PHR3200: Biochemistry for the Pharmaceutical Sciences
- PHR4000 and 4010: Molecules to Medicine I and II: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Pharmaceutical Sciences
- PHR4600: Pharmaceutical Sciences Laboratory
- PHR4610: Experimental Techniques in Drug Discovery

This data-informed change, proposed to start in AU25, is intended to support student success and ensure that program learning outcomes are met consistently and effectively. The rationale for this proposal considers:

- **Alignment with Peer Institutions and Majors:**
Many peer programs at Ohio State have adopted minimum grade thresholds in core major coursework to promote content mastery and academic progression. The absence of a minimum grade requirement in the current BSPS structure places our program out of alignment with comparable STEM and health science majors.
- **Assurance of Learning Outcomes in Core Pharmaceutical Sciences Content:**
The BSPS curriculum is designed to provide foundational and advanced knowledge in pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry, and pharmaceutical sciences research. Ensuring students earn at least a C– in these core courses reflects our commitment to academic integrity and quality. This threshold supports our goal of producing graduates who have demonstrably achieved the program’s learning outcomes, particularly those tied to scientific competency, critical thinking, and professional preparedness.
- **Predictive Value for PharmD Program Readiness:**
Over 50% of BSPS graduates go on to enter our Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program. Performance in upper-level BSPS courses has been shown to be a reliable indicator of preparedness for the rigors of PharmD coursework. Instituting a C– minimum reinforces a standard of academic performance that is more consistent with the expectations of

professional training and will help ensure that students are better equipped for success in postgraduate pharmacy education.

Implementation Considerations:

If approved, the C– minimum would apply to the specific coursework starting with students entering the program in AU25. Students who earn below a C– in a core course would be required to repeat the course to receive credit toward the BSPS major. Historical data suggest that this change would have impacted only 8% of students (n=82 out of 978 BSPS graduates) since 2016; however, ample academic advising and communication strategies will be implemented to support a smooth transition and ensure students understand the new grade requirement.

Approval Process:

This proposal was approved by the college's Undergraduate Studies Committee in March 2025 and by the full college faculty in April 2025.