

Master of Applied Clinical and Preclinical Research

Request to Reduce Total Credits Hours from 39 to 36

MACPR Program Overview

The Master of Applied Clinical and Preclinical Research (MACPR) program is a new interdisciplinary graduate degree program offered entirely online by the Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medicine. The program is designed to prepare graduates for careers as highly effective administrators, regulatory specialists, and research team members in clinical and preclinical research studies. The program offers a multidisciplinary curriculum, covering the theory and practice of research methods and statistics, the ethics of human subject and animal research, the science of pharmacology and medical product regulation, and the business of research operations and management.

Four interdisciplinary specializations are offered:

1. Clinical Research Management – directed by the College of Nursing
2. Regulatory Affairs – directed by the Colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy
3. Safety Pharmacology – directed by the College of Pharmacy
4. Clinical Pharmacology – directed by the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy

MACPR Curriculum

The MACPR curriculum is designed with a set of core courses covering the application of clinical and preclinical research principles and a set of specialization courses providing in depth learning in an area of focus chosen by the student. The program currently requires 39 credit hours of coursework that may be completed on either a full- or part-time schedule in 12-28 months. The core of the program requires 21 credit hours of coursework; a minimum of 12 credit hours of specialization coursework is also required. The program concludes with a 6-credit-hour capstone project or internship.

Request and Rationale for Total Credit Hour Reduction

The Graduate Studies Committee of the MACPR program has approved a reduction of the capstone credit hours from 6 to 3, thus reducing the MACPR degree from 39 to 36 credit hours. There are several reasons for this change:

1. Most MACPR students are working professionals. For these students, a 6-credit capstone may require two semesters to complete, whereas a 3-credit capstone can be completely in one semester. Given that nearly 50 students have enrolled in the MACPR program in this inaugural year, and we anticipate doubling the number of incoming students within three years, we forecast a shortage of faculty advisors to oversee the capstones if the capstones are to be completed over two semesters. Reducing the capstone to a one-semester project will reduce the number of faculty advising capstones at any one time.
2. Our largest peer institutions offering Clinical Research Management and Regulatory Affairs graduate programs are George Washington University, Drexel University, Rutgers University, and Arizona State University. Similar graduate programs at these four institutions require only a 3-credit-hour capstone or practicum, with the exception of Arizona State, which offers the option of either a 3- or 6-credit capstone. Reducing our capstone to 3 credits will bring us in line with these peer institutions.
3. These peer institutions also require fewer credit hours to complete similar degrees:
 - Arizona State University – 33 credit hours,
 - Drexel University – 36 credit hours.
 - George Washington University - 36 credit hours,
 - Rutgers University – 36 credit hours,Reducing our degree requirement to 36 credit hours will again bring us in line with these peer institutions.
4. Over 80% of the MACPR students are working professionals and enroll in two courses per semester. Reducing the total degree requirement from 39 to 36 credit hours allows these working professionals to

complete the program in 24 months (2 years) rather than 28 months (2 years and 4 months). The two-year time frame is more attractive to prospective students.

New Credit Hour Effective Date

The MACPR Graduate Studies Committee requests that the 3-credit capstone and 36-credit-hour degree requirement be effective immediately for all students enrolled in the MACPR program.