

**Has Manchester University's distance Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) pathway been approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)?**

No. Manchester University has submitted a proposal to ACPE for a predominantly distance pathway for the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The ACPE Board will discuss the proposal at its January 2022 meeting to determine whether the pathway is on pace to launch, with a final decision coming in June 2022. Manchester University will update prospective students interested in the distance pathway at each step of the process. Please keep in mind that the pathway may not be approved; however, admitted students would be invited into the traditional, on campus Doctor of Pharmacy program in Fall 2022 if approval is not granted.

**When will Manchester University launch its distance PharmD pathway?**

Presuming ACPE approves the distance PharmD pathway, we anticipate launching it in Fall 2022.

**Why is Manchester University pursuing a distance pathway for the PharmD Program?**

A distance pathway allows Manchester to reach a broader audience and expand the mission and vision of the PharmD Program into communities in and outside of Indiana. The distance pathway option removes the barrier of relocation costs for students who otherwise would not be able to pursue Manchester's program.

**What type of student will the distance PharmD pathway appeal to?**

Most elements of the distance pathway will be asynchronous, meaning students do not have to be online at the time of the class or session. This will enable remote learners to have more flexibility and time to complete coursework during the early foundational years. It will also open opportunities for working professionals and career-changers to complete the curriculum. However, keep in mind that some individual course sessions will be scheduled on-campus, including pharmacy practice laboratory (PPL) experiences and completing objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs).

**In what ways does Manchester University PharmD Program have experience in online instruction?**

The program's and faculty's collective experiences delivering the PharmD Program using distance learning strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic, solid track record delivering a fully online Master of Science in Pharmacogenomics (MS in PGx) degree designed for working professionals and availability of instructional design expertise and resources position the program for success in this endeavor.

**What technological support do I have as a distance PharmD pathway student?**

University information technology services (ITS) provides a full-time staff member for the Fort Wayne campus who has oversight over digital technologies used in curricular delivery, whether on-campus or online. While not located physically on the Fort Wayne Campus, additional members of the ITS team (located on our North Manchester Campus), are available by phone, email or virtually to assist students. All students will have a university-issued laptop installed with necessary systems and applications, and faculty will utilize technology related to video and voice projection, recording and editing, and a learning management system with 24/7 technical support to share course material

### **How do I apply to the distance PharmD pathway?**

Candidates will apply through PharmCAS, the same system used for on-campus PharmD Program applications. The application opened in mid-July and will close June 1, 2022. A priority deadline of October 1st exists for all PharmCAS applicants to Manchester University; those candidates who apply by October 1st will be given priority consideration for the distance pathway, in addition to the other benefits stated on our website.

### **How many seats will be offered to students in the distance PharmD pathway?**

In order to provide a high-quality experience to learners that meet their individual needs, the number of seats in the distance pathway will be limited. A specific number of seats available will be determined by applicant interest and faculty workload.

### **Do I have access to the same services as on-campus PharmD pathway students?**

Yes. Plans for each area are outlined below:

*Counseling – a telemedicine option is available for student use.*

*Disability Services – The University Office of Academic Support, located on our North Manchester Campus, oversees the ADA accommodations process. OAS personnel will interact with students (including PharmD students in our current on-campus pathway) largely using Microsoft Teams, phone calls, and emails.*

*Faculty Mentoring – Faculty currently mentor approximately 3-4 students per class cohort. Certain faculty will be designated as distance pathway mentors.*

*Peer mentoring – We assign our on-campus students a peer mentor who is a second- or third-year student. We anticipate following the same process in the distance pathway; however, we intend to pair distance pathway students with distance pathway mentors.*

*Student Organizations/Involvement - Distance pathway students will be encouraged to join student organizations and will be eligible to serve as organization officers. Meetings will be conducted in a hybrid manner (on-campus students in person and distance pathway students remotely)*

### **How frequently will I have to be on the Fort Wayne, Indiana campus as a distance PharmD pathway student?**

Distance pathway students will be expected on campus at the following times:

- *Orientation – generally Monday-Wednesday the week before classes begin.*
- *White Coat Ceremony – Friday of Orientation week*
- *Pharmacy Practice Laboratory (PPL) – two-week summer intensive sessions during the P1-P3 (pharmacy first year-pharmacy third year) years*
- *Clinical Examinations (OSCE's) - during two-week summer intensive sessions for PPL during the P1-P3 years*
- *Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) – two, four-week clinical experiences with Manchester faculty in the 4th year of the program.*

- *Graduation Week and Commencement – sessions included this week to prepare graduates for life after pharmacy school; a Hooding Ceremony and Commencement would be the Friday and Saturday of that week, respectively.*

### **How is the curriculum for the distance PharmD pathway Program different than the on-campus pathway?**

Like the on-campus pathway, the distance pathway will consist of 144 credit hours of coursework spread over a four-year period, which includes both didactic and experiential courses. The first three years will include fall, January session, spring and summer semesters for a total of 9 semesters rather than 6 semesters in years P1-P3 as in the on-campus program. This will enable remote learners, some of whom are likely to be career-changers and working professionals, to have more flexibility and time to complete coursework during the early foundational years. Most elements of the distance pathway will be asynchronous as well, meaning students do not have to be online at the time of the class or session. Just as in the on-campus pathway, students will complete a minimum of five didactic credit hours of elective coursework in the distance pathway. Unlike the on-campus pathway, the distance pathway will have elective offerings in the January session and summer.

### **What housing options are there for distance PharmD pathway students during the summer, on-campus requirements in Fort Wayne?**

Doctor of Pharmacy program staff can assist students in finding extended stay and traditional hotels in the area, many of which offer discounts for Manchester University students.

### **How will I complete experiential education rotation hours in the distance PharmD pathway?**

Practice sites for clinical rotations will be available in many locations throughout the United States. Students can help identify potential sites for clinical experiences by submitting a request for the program to add a clinical site. Students in the distance pathway will complete two weeks (80 hours) in a community pharmacy during January session between their fall and spring semesters of P1 year. Student will then have to complete additional hours each week at the site through the spring semester of P1 year. The 4-week IPPE II experience will be conducted during the January session between the fall and spring semesters of the P2 year. The APPE clinical rotations in the distance pathway will follow the same schedule and requirements as the on-campus pathway (ten 4-week rotations). Students will be required to complete two, 4-week experiences with Manchester faculty. This will require that they be in residence in Fort Wayne for a minimum of 10 weeks during the P4 year (2 weeks didactic and 8 weeks experiential).

### **How do distance PharmD pathway students complete service requirements?**

Service is foundational to the University and Pharmacy Program. Students in the distance pathway will be required to fulfill four community service events on their own, and complete co-curricular requirements and track them in our system, with the assistance of their faculty mentor. Distance students will participate synchronously, virtually in one Day of Service event each spring (P1-P3).

### **Am I able to pursue the PharmD/MS in PGx Dual Degree as a distance PharmD pathway student?**

We are investigating ways to structure this opportunity for students in the distance pathway.

**As a current PharmD student, am I eligible for the distance PharmD pathway?**

No. The distance pathway will start at the P1 year, and is therefore only available to those starting the P1 year in Fall 2022.

**What happens if Manchester University is NOT approved for the distance PharmD pathway?**

In the event the program is not approved for the distance pathway, we will share this information with enrolled students in a timely fashion. Those admitted (i.e., rising P1) students who expressed interest in the distance pathway would be invited into our on-campus pathway. Any rising P1 student who declines would be reimbursed any deposited dollars for tuition and fees, as well as refunded any application-related expenses.