

REGULATIONS FOR THE MASTER OF CLINICAL PHARMACY (MCLinPharm)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

MCP.1 Definition

The degree of Master of Clinical Pharmacy (MCLinPharm) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of the curriculum of 2 academic years or equivalent in the Department of Pharmacology & Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

MCP.2 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Clinical Pharmacy, candidates shall:

- a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - c) be a registered Pharmacist holding a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from this University, or from another university, or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - d) be a registered Pharmacist in Hong Kong; and
 - e) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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MCP.3 Qualifying examination

- a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report; and
 - b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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MCP.4 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the Master of Clinical Pharmacy, a candidate shall:

- a) comply with General Regulations; and
 - b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - c) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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MCP.5 Period of Study

The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

MCP.6 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall:

- a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- b) take not less than 69 credits in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses, and follow the instructions in the syllabus prescribed for the courses and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical or clinical work;
- c) satisfy the examiners in the courses by continuous assessments and/or written examinations and/or objective structured clinical pharmacy examination (OSCPPE); and
- d) complete and present a satisfactory practice-based research project on an approved topic.
The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination.

Candidates who fail to fulfil the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of registration shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provision of General Regulation G12, except that candidates who are unable because of illness or circumstances beyond their control to complete the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of registration, may apply for permission to extend their period of studies.

MCP.7 Assessments

- a) A candidate who:
 - i) fails to satisfy the examiners in continuous assessments of a course may be permitted to retake the prescribed assessment(s); or
 - ii) fails to satisfy the examiners in the written examinations/objective structured clinical pharmacy examination (OSCPPE) of a course may be permitted to re-sit the examination(s) with or without repeating the course; or
 - iii) fails to satisfy the examiners in the examination of the practice-based research project, but has satisfactorily completed the prescribed work, may be permitted to re-submit the practice-based research project within a specific period of time.
- b) A candidate who:
 - i) is not permitted to retake the prescribed assessment(s) or repeat a course which he/she has failed, or present himself/herself for re-examination(s), or re-submit a revised practice-based research project; or
 - ii) fails to satisfy the examiners in written examinations at the third attempt;

may be required to discontinue his/her studies.

MCP.8 Grading System

Individual courses shall be graded according to the grading system of “Pass” and “Fail”.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF CLINICAL PHARMACY

The Master of Clinical Pharmacy curriculum consists of 13 core courses (3-9 credit units in each course), 1 elective course (6 credit units) and a practice-based research project (15 credit units), making a minimum of 69 credit units of teaching and prescribed work.

The mode of assessment for core and elective courses (except MCPH7001, MCPH7003 and MCPH7013 which are with 100% continuous assessment) comprises continuous assessments (40%) and written examinations or objective structured clinical pharmacy examination (OSCP) (60%). Candidates are also required to submit a practice-based research project, which is the capstone experience, to the satisfaction of the examiner(s).

CORE COURSES

Students are required to complete the following 13 core courses.

Critical Thinking and Appraisal Skills

Course Code	Course Name	Credit
MCPH7001	Leadership in Health Care System	3
MCPH7002	Evidence-based Practice	3
MCPH7003	Safe Medication Practice	3

General Clinical Pharmacy Skills

Course Code	Course Name	Credit
MCPH7004	Clinical Pharmacy: Cardiology, Diabetes & Nephrology	9
MCPH7005	Clinical Pharmacy: Respiratory & Infection	6
MCPH7006	Clinical Pharmacy: Gastroenterology & Hepatology	3
MCPH7007	Clinical Pharmacy: Psychiatry	3
MCPH7008	Clinical Pharmacy: Connective Tissues Disorders	3
MCPH7009	Clinical Pharmacy: Neurology	3
MCPH7010	Clinical Pharmacy: Oncology	3
MCPH7011	Clinical Pharmacy: Care of the Elderly	3
MCPH7012	Clinical Pharmacy: Paediatrics & Pregnancy	3
MCPH7013	Clinical Pharmacy: Primary Care	3

ELECTIVE COURSES

The elective courses are the continuation from the related core courses. Students are required to take one elective course in advancing their clinical practice. They may choose from one of the three specialised areas from the following list of elective courses which are offered subject to availability and minimum student number.

Course Code	Course Name	Credit
MCPH7101	Professional Practice: Oncology	6
MCPH7102	Professional Practice: Paediatrics	6
MCPH7103	Professional Practice: Care of the Elderly	6

RESEARCH PROJECT [Capstone experience]

The research project represents 15 credit units of work and students are required to undertake an empirical study. The research project involves formulation of the research idea, clarification of conceptual issues, literature review, formulation of final research question, design of study, feasibility assessment, pilot work, Institutional Review Board (IRB) application, setting up of collaboration (if applicable), data collection logistic, research project management, database design, research log-book management, data collection, progress review, monitoring for data quality, data cleansing, data analysis, interpretation of results, reporting, writing up of report. These are carried out under the guidance of a project supervisor.

Course Code	Course Name	Credit
MCPH7201	Research Project	15

CORE COURSES

MCPH7001 Leadership in Health Care System (3 credits)

This course consists of series of seminars and workshops to help develop students' leadership skills. Seminars will cover the theories in leadership, with inspirational guest speakers. Workshops will allow students to learn via interactive activities and sharing.

MCPH7002 Evidence-based Practice (3 credits)

This is an interactive course providing students with a practical approach to evidence-based medicine. This will include an introduction to clinical epidemiology, decision analysis, evaluating practice guidelines and conventional information sources.

MCPH7003 Safe Medication Practice (3 credits)

This course highlights the importance of the role of pharmacists in promoting the safe use of medicines. Topics include an overview of various services and means, adopted both locally and worldwide, by pharmacists in achieving the goal of medication safety. This may include medication reconciliation service and pharmacy-technology.

MCPH7004 Clinical Pharmacy: Cardiology, Diabetes & Nephrology (9 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in cardiology, diabetes and renal diseases. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7005 Clinical Pharmacy: Respiratory & Infectious Diseases (6 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in respiratory diseases, including asthma control and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease management; and infectious diseases, including hepatitis. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of

patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7006 Clinical Pharmacy: Gastroenterology & Hepatology (3 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in the gastrointestinal tract and liver diseases, including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and liver cirrhosis. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7007 Clinical Pharmacy: Psychiatry (3 credits)

This course covers the latest treatments in mental health diseases, including schizophrenia, anxiety & depression, bi-polar disorder and dementia. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7008 Clinical Pharmacy: Connective Tissues Disorders (3 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in connective tissues disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7009 Clinical Pharmacy: Neurology (3 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in neurological diseases, including epilepsy and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7010 Clinical Pharmacy: Oncology (3 credits)

This course covers the latest pharmacotherapies in malignant diseases, with emphasis on the use of new targeted therapies. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7011 Clinical Pharmacy: Care of the Elderly (3 credits)

This course includes principle and pharmaceutical management in elderly patients, with discussion on the major problems encountered by the elderly. This may include falls and incontinence. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7012 Clinical Pharmacy: Paediatrics & Pregnancy (3 credits)

This course includes principle and pharmaceutical management in children and pregnant women, with special consideration on the use of medicines in these therapeutic areas. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple co-morbidities. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

MCPH7013 Clinical Pharmacy: Primary Care (3 credits)

This course provides an overview on the current pharmacy services provided in the primary healthcare setting, in generating further ideas in developing potential novo service models and in facilitating future collaborations between community and hospital healthcare providers. Students will have sharing with local practising pharmacist(s) from a primary healthcare setting in their patient management. Students are expected to present, apply and critically appraise clinical evidence and studies in related topics.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Complete any 6 credits from the following courses)

MCPH7101 Professional Practice: Oncology (6 credits)

This course places emphasis on the role of an oncology pharmacist in the pharmacological treatment of patients diagnosed with malignant diseases. This may include end-of-life care and alternative therapies. This course allows students to have a more in-depth knowledge in the advanced therapies for patients with various malignant illnesses. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with terminal illnesses. Students are also expected to understand the current healthcare services, and to be able to critically appraise the services and supporting facilities to this kind of patient.

MCPH7102 Professional Practice: Paediatrics (6 credits)

This course places emphasis on the role of a paediatric pharmacist in the support and pharmaceutical management to children. This may include medication safety in children and neonates as the use of drugs in this group of patient can exhibit different pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics as compared to adults. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of paediatric patients. Students are expected to understand the need of paediatric patients and the current healthcare services provided to them, and to be able to critically appraise the service and supporting facilities to this kind of patient.

MCPH7103 Professional Practice: Care of the Elderly (6 credits)

This course places emphasis on the role of a care of the elderly pharmacist in the pharmaceutical management and support to the elderly patients. This may include safe use of medicines in older people as this group of patients can have different pharmacodynamics changes due to multiple organ impairment. The course may also include social issues in the elderly, in relation to the government policies. Students will have case-sharing with specialised pharmacist(s) (local or overseas) in the management of patients with multiple problem, including co-morbidities and social. Students are expected to understand the need of the elderly and the current healthcare services provided to them, and to be able to critically appraise the service and supporting facilities to this kind of patient.

RESEARCH PROJECT

MCPH7201 Research Project (15 credits)

Students shall, under the supervision of his/her project supervisors, formulate their research questions and undertake an empirical study. The research project should be of between 6,000 (minimum) to 10,000 words (maximum) (excluding references).