

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHINESE MEDICINES (MScChinMeds)

(See also General Regulations)

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.

The degree of Master of Science in Chinese Medicines is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of the prescribed course of study in the field of Chinese Medicines.

Admission requirements

MSCM 1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Science in Chinese Medicines,

- (a) A candidate shall comply with the General Regulations but with waiver on Regulation G2(b); and
- (b) A candidate shall hold
 - (i) the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine (BPharm[ChinMed]) of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (ii) a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, western medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, biology, chemistry, biochemistry or healthcare field, plus appropriate qualification of certificate or diploma in Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine from a University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose or with one-year relevant working experience or above in the field of Chinese medicines as deemed appropriate by the admission committee; or
 - (iii) the degree of Bachelor of Chinese Medicine (BChinMed) of this University or an appropriate qualification of equivalent standard from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose, and with appropriate qualification of certificate or diploma in Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine from a University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose or with one-year relevant working experience or above in the field of Chinese medicines as deemed appropriate by the admission committee.

Award of degree

MSCM 2 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Chinese Medicines, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Length of curriculum

MSCM 3 The curriculum shall extend over not less than two academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 608 hours of prescribed work. The maximum period of study should not exceed three years.

Completion of curriculum

MSCM 4 To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) follow the courses of instruction as prescribed in the syllabus for which no exemption will be granted;
 - (b) satisfy the examiners in all written examinations and coursework assessments for the prescribed theoretical courses;
 - (c) complete satisfactorily all practicum for the prescribed practical courses; and
 - (d) complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within his approved field of study and pass an oral examination on the dissertation itself.
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Dissertation

MSCM 5 The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by a date as prescribed in the syllabus. The dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabus and it shall be written in either Chinese or English. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work (or in the case of conjoint work, a statement countersigned by his co-worker, which shows his share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

Assessment

MSCM 6 Examinations shall normally be held at the end of each semester.

MSCM 7 A candidate's coursework, including completion of written assignments and participation in practical work, as the case may be, shall be taken into account in determining the candidate's result in the theoretical and practical courses. The practicum shall be assessed based on the candidate's work reports and performance.

MSCM 8 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in the written examination may be permitted to present himself for re-examination at a time specified by the Board of Examiners; or he may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

MSCM 9 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed practical work and practice may be permitted to fulfill such deficiencies to the satisfaction of the examiners within a specified period.

MSCM 10 A candidate who has failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a revised dissertation within a specified period; or may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

MSCM 11 A candidate who is unable because of his illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present himself at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from the examination.

Examination results

MSCM 12 At the conclusion of the examination and after presentation of the dissertations, a list of successful candidates shall be published.

MSCM 13

- (a) The Chinese title of the degree shall be “理科碩士(中藥學)”
- (b) The examinations and assessments of the MScChinMeds curriculum shall normally be conducted in Chinese.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHINESE MEDICINES

Candidates are required to complete all the compulsory courses as prescribed below. The curriculum will comprise five components: theoretical studies and seminars, laboratory training, practice, field visits and a dissertation. Candidates should complete 264 hours of theoretical studies and seminars. For laboratory training, candidates should complete 18 hours of experiments. The 176 hours of practice and field visits will be conducted in Hong Kong and on the Mainland, which will be arranged in phases during the course of study. For the dissertation, candidates will spend 150 hours in preparing and writing the dissertation.

First Year

MSCM 6500	Research Methodology in Chinese Medicine (27 hours)
MSCM 6502	Modern Analysis Technology and Quality Control of Chinese Medicines (30 hours)
MSCM 6503	Research Progress of Chinese Medicines and Natural Drugs Chemistry (41 hours)
MSCM 6504	Research Progress of Pharmacology and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines (36 hours)
MSCM 6508	Fundamental Theory of Chinese Medicine (24 hours)
MSCM 6509	Practice I- Modern Analysis Technology and Quality Control of Chinese Medicines (48 hours)
MSCM 6510	Practice II- Research Progress of Pharmacology and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines (46 hours)

Second Year

MSCM 6601	Chinese Medicines Prescription and New Drug Development (30 hours)
MSCM 6602	Interaction in Herb-Drug (30 hours)
MSCM 6604	Dissertation (150 hours)
MSCM 6605	Practice III- Chinese Medicines Prescription and New Drug Development (46 hours)
MSCM 6606	Chinese Medicines Trading and Pharmaceutical Management (60 hours)
MSCM 6607	Practice IV- Final Year (40 hours)

MSCM 6500 Research Methodology in Chinese Medicine (27 hours)

This course introduces the general methodologies and directions in research of Chinese Medicine. It includes literature collection, writing reference review, projects design, summaries of clinical experiences, clinical and experimental studies and dissertation writing.

MSCM 6502 Modern Analysis Technology and Quality Control of Chinese Medicines (30 hours)

In this course, the latest technology and equipment to analyze the structure of Chinese Medicines are applied to understand the physical characteristics, the authentication of drug, level of purity, level of active ingredient(s) and justification of the drug's quality. The objectives of this course are to enable the students to understand and to master the modern analytical and research technologies in Chinese medicines, including the modern technology on quality control of manufactured or processed Chinese Medicines.

MSCM 6503 Research Progress of Chinese Medicines and Natural Drugs Chemistry (41 hours)

This course introduces the research content related to natural drugs chemistry as well as the principles and methods for extraction of the chemical structure. It aims to understand the major formulas and application methods in research of the chemical structure and content of natural drugs; and to understand the development of natural drugs chemistry and its importance in the professional pharmaceutical field.

MSCM 6504 Research Progress of Pharmacology and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines (36 hours)

This course introduces the overall ideas on research methods and laboratory techniques of Pharmacology and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines. It aims to build up the foundation for further studying on the development of Chinese Medicines.

MSCM 6508 Fundamental Theory of Chinese Medicine (24 hours)

This course reviews and interprets the basic theories, knowledge, concept and terminology of the "Fundamental Theory of Chinese Medicine". It gives a brief understanding of the source, development and relevant modern research progress of the Chinese Medicine. Topics include "Visceral State Research", "Health Preservation Research", "Channels and Collaterals Research", "Constitutional Research" and "Etiology of Seven Emotions" etc. The course enables students to develop a solid theoretical foundation of Chinese Medicines.

MSCM 6509 Practice I- Modern Analysis Technology and Quality Control of Chinese Medicines (48 hours)

Based on students' theoretical foundation, this course provides students with an insight into the latest technology and operation of Chinese medicine analysis, which helps develop a sound foundation in the analysis methods of Chinese medicine through practical training.

MSCM 6510 Practice II- Research Progress of Pharmacology and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines (46 hours)

Based on students' background knowledge in Pharmacology and Toxicology, this course aims at familiarizing students with the changes and development of clinical application of Chinese medicine, as well as the side effects and influence of medicine processing on the chemical composition of Chinese medicine.

MSCM 6601 Chinese Medicines Prescription and New Drug Development (30 hours)

This course introduces the basic theories, knowledge and skills on Chinese Medicine Pharmacology as well as its latest development on production and applied technology. It aims to understand the preparation skills, quality control, and the characteristics of different preparation types of commonly used Chinese Medicines, and also to obtain the basic research abilities or knowledge on drug improvement and new drug development.

MSCM 6602 Interaction in Herb-Drug (30 hours)

The goal of this course is to draw awareness to the interaction in herb-drug frequently occurred in the practice of Chinese medicine, and subsequently to reduce the cross toxic effects when Chinese medicines are administrated concomitantly with conventional drugs. This course will provide an overview of the herb-herb interaction, herb-drug interaction and drug-drug interaction. The fundamental biochemistry of herb-drug interaction and relevant clinical importance will be discussed. To facilitate the students to access the current information on the herb-drug interaction, several major online databases will be introduced and the latest research progress will be discussed as well.

MSCM 6604 Dissertation (150 hours)

Under the guidance of supervisors, students are required to submit a dissertation through the undertaking of literature review, collection of data and information, reports on the selected topics, analysis of dissertation topics, discussion of report and topic and oral examination.

MSCM 6605 Practice III- Chinese Medicines Prescription and New Drug Development (46 hours)

This course aims at helping students understand better about the development of Chinese medicine prescription and industrialized production processes. By integrating theories with practices, students will be able to develop better concepts in the development of Chinese medicine through practical training.

MSCM 6606 Chinese Medicines Trading and Pharmaceutical Management (60 hours)

This course introduces the related regulatory systems and organizations, basic content and methods of pharmaceutical administration as well as to the management of pharmaceutical products in Mainland China and Hong Kong in respect of its regulations and laws. The objective of this course is to enhance student's understanding of the fundamental theory and knowledge on operation management of Chinese Medicines Commodity, basic knowledge and present situation of international trade of Chinese Medicines so that they can apply the theories to their work.

MSCM 6607 Practice IV- Final Year (40 hours)

This course is to be completed in final year of study under supervision at manufactory of Chinese Medicines on the mainland for understanding basic technology at process and production of Chinese medicines.

Dissertation

The title of dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year in which the teaching programme ends and the dissertation shall be submitted not later than July 31.