

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF CLINICAL PHARMACY (MClinPharm)

(See also General Regulations)

MCP1 Definition

The degree of Master of Clinical Pharmacy (MClinPharm) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of the programme of 2 calendar 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.

MCP2 Admission requirements

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

- a) comply with the General Regulations; and
 - b) 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
 - c) be a registered Pharmacist in Hong Kong; and
 - d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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MCP3 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.
 - 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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MCP4 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) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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MCP5 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall extend over not less than two calendar years of part-time study, with a minimum of 400 hours of prescribed work. The minimum and maximum period of study shall be 2 and 3 years respectively.

MCP6 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall:

- a) follow instruction in the syllabus prescribed for the courses and complete satisfactory all required written, practical or clinical work;
- b) satisfy the examiners in the courses by continuous assessments and/or written examinations or objective structured clinical examination (OSCE); and
- c) complete and present a satisfactory clinical 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 study 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 study, may apply for permission to extend their period of studies.

MCP7 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 examination (OSCE) 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 clinical research project, but has satisfactorily completed the prescribed work, may be permitted to re-submit the clinical 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 clinical research project; or
 - ii) fails to satisfy the examiners in written examinations at the third attempt;

may be required to discontinue his/her studies.
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SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF CLINICAL PHARMACY (MClinPharm)

The Master of Clinical Pharmacy programme consists of 13 core courses (entailing 280 contact hours), 1 elective course (entailing 40 contact hours) and a clinical research project (80 hours including 10 contact hours), making a minimum of 400 hours of teaching and prescribed work.

The mode of assessment for core and elective courses comprises continuous assessments (40%) and written examinations/objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) (60%). Candidates are also required to submit a clinical research project to the satisfaction of the examiner(s).

CORE COURSES

Students are required to complete the following 13 core courses. Each of the core courses entails 20 contact hours (except MCPH7004 which entails 40 contact hours), which amount to 280 contact hours.

Critical Thinking and Appraisal Skills

MCPH7001	Leadership in Health Care System
MCPH7002	Evidence-based Practice
MCPH7003	Safe Medication Practice

General Clinical Pharmacy Skills

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

MCPH7001 Leadership in Health Care System

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 (MCPH7101, MCPH7102 & MCPH7103). Each elective course entails 40 contact hours. Elective course are offered subject to availability and minimum student number.

MCPH7101 Professional Practice: Oncology

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

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

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.

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The clinical research project represents 80 hours of work (including 10 contact hours) 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.

MCPH7201 Research Project

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).
