The University of Mississippi is recognized as a major research institution and is a part of the R-1: Doctoral Universities (Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education) group.

The School of Pharmacy's extramural research funding reached $21.2 million in 2019. Three of the school's four academic departments offer a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences: BioMolecular Sciences (emphases in Environmental Toxicology, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology), Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery, and Pharmacy Administration.

Each of these programs offers opportunities to study with nationally and internationally recognized research scientists. Taught in a supportive environment, these programs prepare students for teaching and research positions in academia, or administrative and research positions in the pharmaceutical, chemical, agrochemical, food and health care, and government agencies. Our diverse graduate community includes outstanding faculty and students from around the globe, and their cutting-edge research and scholarship reflect tremendous vitality, impact and significance.

BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Environmental Toxicology

Environmental Toxicology is the multidisciplinary study of various chemical, biological and physical agents on living organisms. Through research and course work, students study the effects of environmental contaminants and stressors on the environment, wildlife and human health, and come to understand the basic and applied research needed to set environmental policy and regulations. The program contributes scientific information that allows economic growth in a climate of high-quality, cost-effective health services and ecologically meaningful environmental stewardship. Research interests of the faculty include quantifying environmental contaminants and assessing their impact on environmental and human health.

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Medicinal Chemistry

Medicinal Chemistry applies chemical and biological principles to the study of compounds capable of exerting specific effects on biological systems. Medicinal chemists design, synthesize and characterize compounds for managing or treating disease states. Knowledge of both chemical and biological sciences, as well as biophysical principles, are required to rationally design and discover novel therapeutic agents, and to understand and predict the properties that provide substances with drug-like attributes. Areas of current faculty interest include antimicrobial and anticancer chemotherapy, cardiovascular drugs, CNS-active agents, drugs affecting the endocrine system, toxicological aspects of drug or drug-like molecules in biological systems, computer remodeling and simulation.

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Pharmacognosy

Pharmacognosy is the study of bioactive natural products found in plants, microbes and animals, from which nearly half of all therapeutic agents have come or were derived. While addressing such challenges as the impact of natural products on humans and the environment, faculty and students conduct research leading to new methods for analyzing drugs, toxins and herbal preparations; new therapeutic agents, pest controls and herbal medicines; and increased understanding of the pharmacology, ecology and biochemistry of molecules produced by nature. Faculty interests include the search for new antimicrobial and anticancer drugs, CNS-active agents, molecular probes for studying drug-receptor interactions, polyphenols from fruits, semisynthetic modifications of natural products and ecological relations of marine organisms.

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Pharmacology

Pharmacology is the study of chemical agents of therapeutic value. Through course work and basic and applied research, students come to understand the underlying causes of various diseases, the mechanisms of action of substances used to manage or treat them, and potential adverse effects of drugs. With a goal of preserving and protecting health and the environment, areas of current faculty interest include research on the effects of drugs on cardiovascular disease, nervous system disorders, obesity, diabetes and cancer.

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Pharmaceutics
Pharmaceutics is the art and science of delivering the right amount of therapeutic agents to the right places at the right times. Faculty conduct research to identify problems related to drug delivery (e.g., biological barriers, physical and chemical characteristics of molecules) and develop solutions to overcome them. Students come to understand the biopharmaceutical principles of drug delivery through course work and research that expose them to all facets of product research and development, including a variety of cutting-edge technologies. In addition to pre-formulation, formulation and novel drug-delivery systems, areas of current faculty interest include product R&D, drug metabolism, drug dependence and tolerance, pharmacodynamics, solid-state characterization and molecular modeling of physical processes.

Pharmaceutics Chair and Coordinator: Michael A. Repka, D.D.S., Ph.D.
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Industrial Pharmacy
In addition to offering a M.S. and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences programs, the department offers a non-thesis track master’s program in Industrial Pharmacy. This program is designed to provide fundamental and applied knowledge of pharmaceutical R&D, manufacturing and regulatory sciences to prepare B.S. level chemical engineers and scientists (pharmacy, biology and chemistry) for a career in the pharmaceutical industry. The pharmaceutical industry critically needs M.S. level pharmaceutical scientists who are prepared to assume positions in formulations, process development, manufacturing and regulatory affairs.

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The University of Mississippi
School of Pharmacy