

ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025



www.mcw.edu/pharmacy

OUR MISSION

Advance the health of our communities through innovative pharmacy education, continuous public and professional service and diverse scholarly collaborations.

ABOUT THE **MCW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) School of Pharmacy is the only pharmacy school in Wisconsin to offer a three-year accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program at a premier academic medical center.

PharmD students have access to clinical rotations and research experiences at some of the top facilities in the country. The School shares a campus with partners Froedtert Hospital (Level I Trauma Center) and Children's Wisconsin (Level I Pediatric Trauma Center). The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center is another partner located just a short drive from campus.

The MCW PharmD program was granted full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in January 2021 after graduating its first cohort in May 2020. Upon receiving full accreditation status, the MCW School of Pharmacy has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of ACPE, that its PharmD program complies with stringent accreditation standards.

MESSAGE FROM **OUR FOUNDING DEAN**

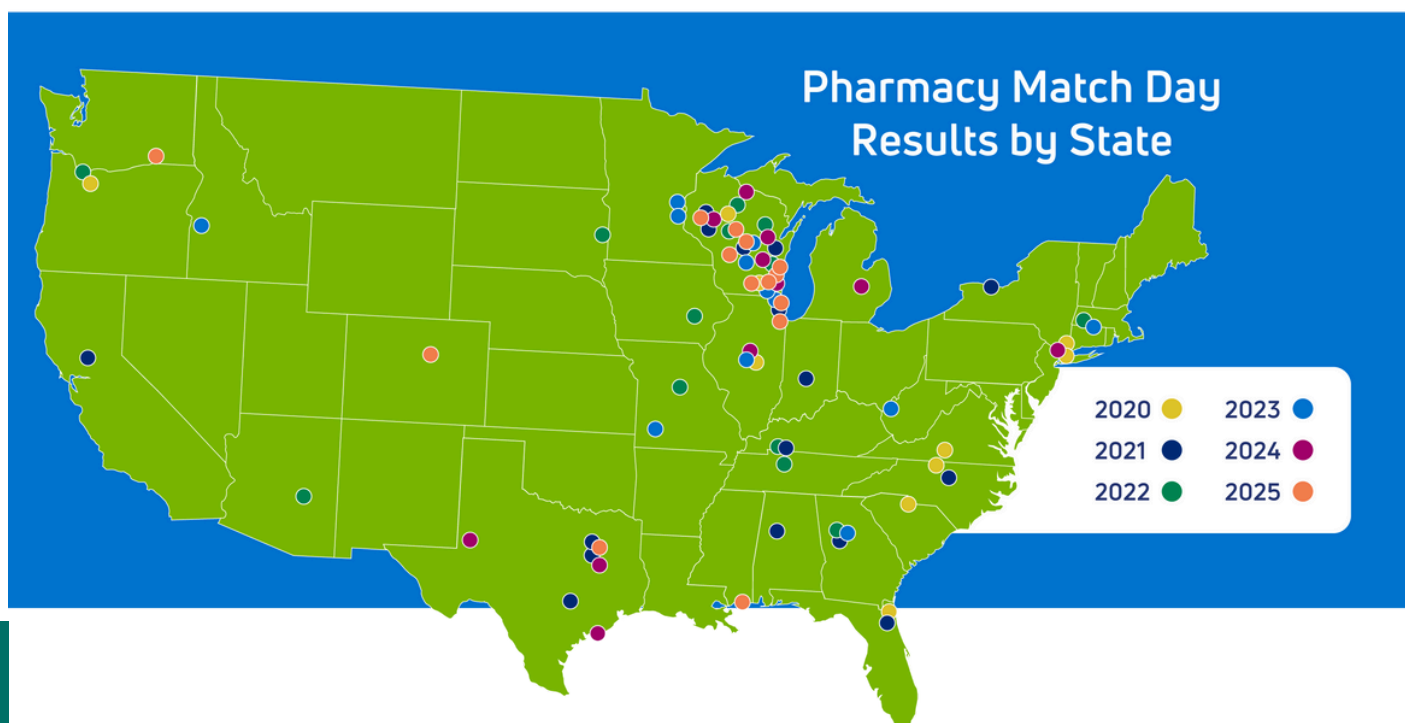


Our School of Pharmacy and PharmD program have been forward projecting since their inception, well suited to prepare pharmacists for the practice today and the future. This is exemplified by our three-year accelerated curriculum, clinical rotations throughout all years, pass-fail grading system, certification in immunizations during students' first quarter and interprofessional education experiences with other members of the healthcare team. Through four academic concentrations, students can now elect to customize their education with us. These focused concentrations enhance the PharmD program graduate's competitiveness in the job market and in postgraduate residency training.



**George E. MacKinnon III, PhD,
DMSc (Hon.), MS, RPh**





CLASS OF 2025 STATS

In mid-May, the MCW School of Pharmacy conferred the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree on 41 students in the Class of 2025. Most graduates are continuing their education through residencies and fellowships.

90%

Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1)
Residency Match Rate

Following the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Match, 26 of 29 participating students obtained postgraduate year-one (PGY1) positions, yielding a 90% PGY1 residency match rate – exceeding the national match rate of 81%. Overall, 85% of these graduates are continuing their training in Wisconsin.



FELLOWSHIPS

Three additional students secured post-doctoral positions in the pharmaceutical industry, for an overall post-graduate training match rate of 91%.

DIRECT-TO-CAREER PATH

One-third of 2025 graduates have chosen the direct-to-career pathway, securing or seeking employment in community pharmacy positions.



LEARN

Experiential Education

The MCW School of Pharmacy's Office of Experiential Education (OEE) meets individually with each pharmacy student several times throughout the three-year PharmD program. Faculty and staff dedicate time to understanding each student's personal career goals and how those goals may evolve as students gain experience working in different practice settings during weekly clinical rotations in their first two years of the program.

PharmD students now have the opportunity to build their professional networks and gain experience working in practice sites beyond the Milwaukee area. In fall 2024, MCW launched the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rural Health Track, which enables pharmacy students during the third (and final) year of the curriculum to complete all seven of their six-week APPE rotations at rural sites in central or northeast Wisconsin.

Also established in fall 2024, students interested in reducing global health inequities can complete an international APPE in partnership with Refuge International, which organizes medical volunteer trips in Guatemala.

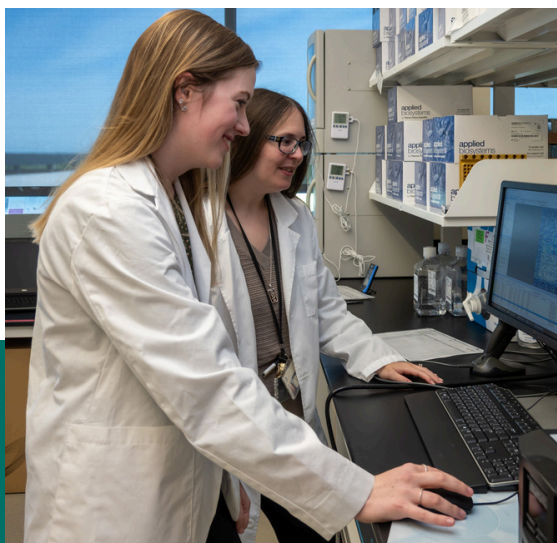
Utilizing the AMA e-Learning Blood Pressure Module

The MCW School of Pharmacy is one of the first pharmacy schools in the country to incorporate the American Medical Association's blood pressure measurement e-learning series into its curriculum.

As the role of the pharmacist has evolved, it has become essential for Doctor of Pharmacy students to be properly trained in blood pressure measurement. Pharmacists can assist with hypertension management and addressing medication nonadherence that can make blood pressure difficult to control.



INNOVATE



Spectrum News 1 Story: MCW PharmD Students Learn About Pharmacogenomics

Sage Orłowski, PharmD ('25) was featured in a Spectrum News 1 story on how MCW PharmD students learn about pharmacogenomics — the study of how a patient's genetic information influences their body's metabolism of drugs.

MCW students have the opportunity to test their own DNA sample through a partnership with RPRD Diagnostics. Sage also completed a clinical rotation at the RPRD lab.

[**WATCH THE STORY >**](#)

Preparing Students for Pharmaceutical Industry Careers

Opportunities for pharmacy students to build skills in the pharmaceutical industry can be hard to come by, especially in Wisconsin, as most pharmaceutical companies are headquartered in the Northeast region. MCW PharmD students who want to pursue industry must be driven, working to build their CV by conducting research, writing papers and seeking out experiential education opportunities (often called "rotations").

They also work closely with MCW professors who have connections in the industry and can help build the student's professional network.

Dr. Abhay Chauhan is one of the pioneers of dendrimers for drug delivery applications and has created a cosmetic anti-aging cream called Amruth. Dr. Kristin Busse has contacts at NIH and FDA through her fellowship training at NIH's Clinical Center and NIAID.

In MCW's Class of 2025, three pharmacy students have accepted postdoctoral positions in the pharmaceutical industry.

- Priya Patel — Medical Information/ Medical Affairs, Kenvue (PA)
- Michael Quaranta — Medical Affairs/Scientific Communications, TerSera Therapeutics (IL)
- Sophia Schulte — Development Operations and Portfolio Management, Regeneron (NY)

ENGAGE

There are plenty of opportunities for MCW PharmD students to engage in leadership roles and community service activities. Check out just a few of the highlights from the last year!



APhA Drug Take Back

Our American Pharmacists Association student chapter hosts Drug Take Back events in fall & spring.



Wellness Committee

The committee organizes various activities including comfort dog visits, walks, games, painting and more.



IPhO

In spring 2025, we added a student chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization!



Saturday Clinic

MCW pharmacy and medical students can volunteer at Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured.



MCW Flu Clinic

PharmD students administered 265 flu vaccines during our October clinic for MCW employees.



Reducing Isolation

Faculty and students presented their Social Isolation & Loneliness Reduction Project.

ADVOCATE

MCW Advocacy Day

During an on-campus Advocacy Day in March 2025, MCW pharmacy students learned about proposed pharmacy-related legislation and gained advice on lobbying best practices.

MCW's Office of Government Relations led a presentation including tips on persuasively presenting your case, using data to support your argument, how to make a request to legislators and how to follow up in a scenario where you are unable to answer a lawmaker's question.



Proposed Legislation

LRB-2415 Eliminate the Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE)

Requirement: The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin recommends eliminating the required law exam to become a licensed pharmacist due to the barrier it creates.

AB 43 / SB 42 Expanding Access to Contraceptives

This legislation would expand access to oral and patch contraceptives by allowing pharmacists to independently prescribe these products.



Student Organizers

Michael DeBisschop, PharmD, pharmacy law instructor, advised second-year pharmacy student leaders in organizing Advocacy Day.

Students had the opportunity to practice the skills they learned in small group discussions about the PSW-supported legislation with Rep. Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa).

STUDENT & ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Liliana Galvan

PharmD Class of 2025

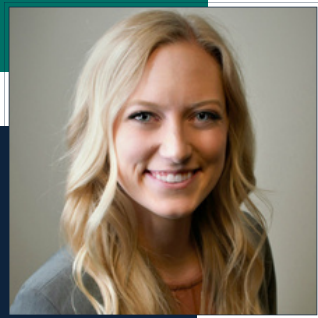
Galvan was the sixth consecutive MCW student to receive the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award. Each year, about 90 students are nominated for this prestigious national award and only 10 are selected as recipients. She was nominated for a project to educate future pharmacists on cultural intelligence and for volunteer work with both the Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured and the Bread of Healing Clinic.



Erik Everton, PharmD

Class of 2020

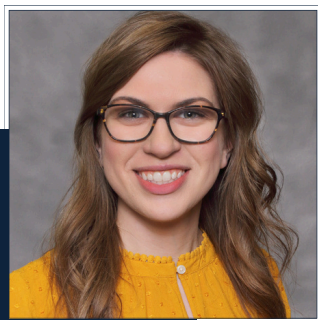
As an associate principal scientist in oncology at Merck, a research-driven biopharmaceutical company, Dr. Everton works remotely — collaborating with clinicians from hospitals across the world to develop and assess new treatment regimens. He is part of a team that assesses clinical trial data and submits reports to health authorities, aiming to obtain FDA approval.



Rachael Savage, PharmD

Class of 2021

Dr. Savage practices at Children's Wisconsin as an inpatient pediatric pharmacist in both general pediatrics and mental health. As a pediatric mental health pharmacist, Dr. Jaszczenski supports primary care and urgent care providers who may ask medication-related questions – for example, regarding side effects or adverse drug interactions.



Emma Hilgendorf, PharmD

Class of 2024

Dr. Hilgendorf completed MCW's newly established post-graduate year one (PGY1) residency program in partnership with Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy. She said this program offers extensive opportunities to deepen expertise in various disease states while gaining valuable experience in specialty pharmacy.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



2025 Instructors of the Year

PY1



Dr. Abhay Chauhan
Biopharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Mathew Letizia
Clinical Sciences

PY2



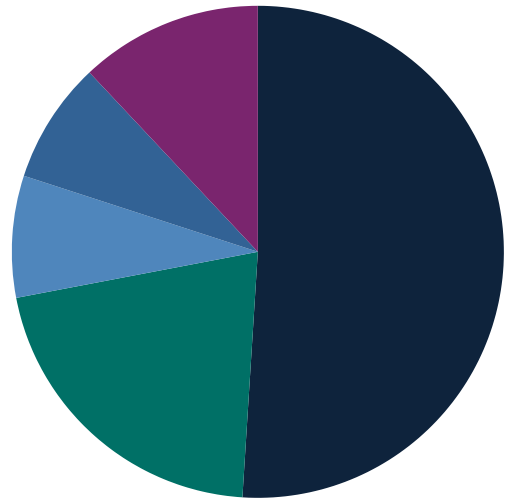
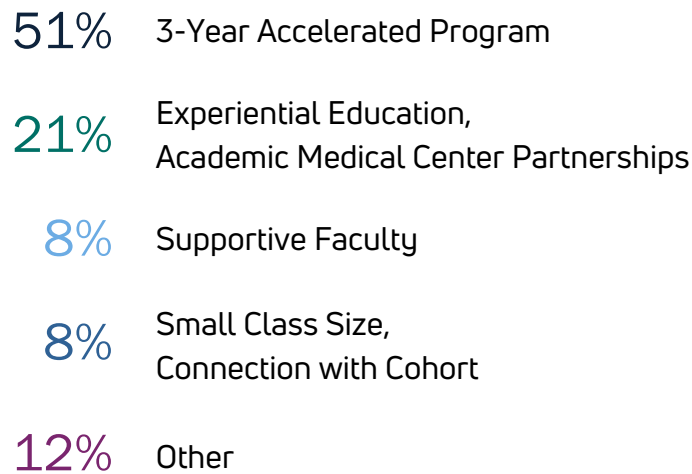
Dr. Phil Mosier
Biopharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Zach Hovis
Clinical Sciences

TOP REASONS TO ATTEND MCW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

According to a survey of Class of 2025 graduates



“Whether through extensive clinical experiences, the opportunity to engage with faculty, or the overall focus on preparing students for real-world challenges, MCW provides a well-rounded and dynamic education that stands out from other pharmacy schools.”

“Integrated Sequence courses in which the pharmacology, med chem, and therapeutics are mostly taught according to the disease state.”

“More opportunities for experience in terms of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) hours required.”



MCW School of Pharmacy

Visit our [Prospective Students](#) page!

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