



UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY

STUDY PROGRAM STRATEGY

Integrated Second-Cycle Program “Master of Science” in “Pharmacy”

1. Introduction

The Integrated Second-Cycle “Master of Science” program in “Pharmacy”, offered by the Department of Pharmacy at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana, represents the first and only public program in the pharmaceutical field in the Republic of Albania, with a tradition of approximately 60 years in the education and training of pharmacy professionals.

This program began in the academic year 1960–1961, based on Decree of the People’s Assembly No. 241, dated 02.06.1960, for the establishment of university studies in Pharmacy at the Faculty of Medicine. Currently, the program is delivered within the University of Medicine, Tirana, a public higher education institution established by Council of Ministers Decision No. 48, dated 23.01.2013.

The Department of Pharmacy is the basic unit responsible for the organization, development, improvement, and monitoring of this study program. The program is designed in accordance with the applicable legal framework for higher education in the Republic of Albania, the Statute and Regulations of the University of Medicine, Tirana, as well as academic and professional standards in the pharmaceutical field.

2. Program Mission

The mission of the “Master of Science” program in Pharmacy is to educate pharmacy professionals with advanced scientific, professional, and practical knowledge in pharmaceutical, chemical, and medical sciences, capable of practicing the profession of pharmacist in accordance with contemporary standards of pharmaceutical care, professional ethics, and the needs of the healthcare system.

The program aims to generate and disseminate knowledge in the pharmaceutical field by integrating theoretical teaching with laboratory, professional, and clinical practice, while promoting scientific research, innovation, interdisciplinary cooperation, and lifelong learning.

3. Program Vision

The vision of the program is to consolidate itself as a leading public higher education program in the pharmaceutical field in Albania, preparing qualified, responsible, and competitive pharmacists for the national and international labor market.

The program aims to develop in line with European standards of pharmaceutical education, improving the quality of teaching, scientific research, professional practice, and cooperation with academic, healthcare, pharmaceutical, and research institutions.

4. Strategic Objectives of the Program

The strategic objectives of the study program are:

1. To provide comprehensive academic and professional education in pharmaceutical, chemical, biological, and medical sciences.
2. To prepare pharmacists capable of working in community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, pharmaceutical industry, regulatory institutions, analytical laboratories, scientific research, and other health-related sectors.
3. To ensure the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical skills through lectures, seminars, laboratories, coursework, and professional practice.
4. To promote the development of professional competencies, patient communication skills, pharmaceutical ethics, and social responsibility.
5. To strengthen scientific research in pharmaceutical sciences and increase student involvement in research activities.
6. To enhance national and international cooperation with academic, healthcare, and pharmaceutical institutions.
7. To continuously improve program quality through periodic evaluation, results analysis, and involvement of students, academic staff, and labor market stakeholders.
8. To ensure the program remains aligned with contemporary developments in pharmaceutical, medical, and regulatory fields.

5. Graduate Profile

A graduate of the “Master of Science” program in Pharmacy obtains the professional and academic qualification enabling the practice of the profession of pharmacist, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

The graduate profile is characterized by advanced knowledge in:

- basic and professional chemical sciences;
- biological and medical sciences;
- pharmaceutical technology and formulation of pharmaceutical dosage forms;
- drug analysis and quality control;
- pharmacology, biopharmacy, and pharmacokinetics;
- pharmacognosy and natural products;
- toxicology;

- pharmaceutical legislation, ethics, and deontology;
- pharmaceutical management and patient care.

The graduate is capable of working independently and in interdisciplinary teams, communicating with patients and other healthcare professionals, and contributing to the safe, rational, and effective use of medicines.

6. Academic Structure of the Program

The study program is an integrated second-cycle full-time program, lasting 5 academic years, with a total workload of 300 ECTS credits.

The program structure includes:

- core subjects of the program;
- characterizing subjects;
- integrative subjects;
- elective subjects;
- coursework and professional practice;
- diploma thesis.

Teaching activities are delivered through lectures, seminars, exercises, laboratories, coursework, and professional practice. The program includes a total of 3,233 teaching hours in contact sessions, distributed across different teaching and learning formats.

7. Strategic Development Priorities of the Program

7.1 Improvement of Teaching Quality

The Department of Pharmacy aims to continuously improve the teaching process through:

- periodic revision of syllabi;
- updating of contemporary literature;
- use of interactive teaching methods;
- strengthening of practical and laboratory components;
- continuous assessment of academic performance;
- increased student engagement in the learning process.

7.2 Strengthening Professional Practice

Given that pharmacist training requires practical and professional skills, the program aims to strengthen professional practice in:

- community pharmacies;
- hospital pharmacies;
- pharmaceutical laboratories;

- healthcare institutions;
- regulatory institutions;
- pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.

Professional practice aims to link theoretical knowledge with professional reality and prepare students for the labor market.

7.3 Development of Scientific Research

The Department of Pharmacy will continue to support scientific research in fields such as:

- pharmaceutical technology;
- biopharmacy and pharmacokinetics;
- pharmacognosy and phytotherapy;
- pharmaceutical chemistry;
- pharmaceutical analysis;
- toxicology;
- pharmacoeconomics;
- pharmaceutical legislation;
- clinical and hospital pharmacy.

Students will be encouraged to participate in thesis work, research projects, conferences, scientific activities, and academic publications.

7.4 Internationalization and Academic Cooperation

The program aims to expand international cooperation through:

- Erasmus+ exchanges;
- participation in international projects;
- collaboration with partner universities;
- open lectures with national and international experts;
- participation of staff and students in international conferences.

7.5 Infrastructure Improvement

The Department aims to continuously improve teaching and research infrastructure, particularly in:

- teaching laboratories;
- research laboratories;
- seminar rooms;
- lecture halls;
- library;
- access to scientific literature;
- laboratory equipment and didactic materials.

8. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance of the program is implemented through internal mechanisms of the Department of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Medicine, and the University of Medicine, Tirana.

Key processes include:

- annual program analysis;
- reporting on teaching workload implementation;
- academic staff performance evaluation;
- student evaluation;
- monitoring of the teaching process;
- analysis of pass rates and academic results;
- review of student complaints and requests;
- proposal of improvement measures.

9. Employment Opportunities

A graduate of the “Master of Science” program in Pharmacy may be employed in:

- community pharmacies;
- hospital pharmacies;
- pharmaceutical industry;
- biotechnology industry;
- regulatory and administrative institutions;
- National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (AKBPM);
- Health Insurance Fund (FSDKSH);
- clinical, biochemical, microbiological, and toxicological laboratories;
- quality control laboratories;
- food analysis sector;
- natural products, dietary supplements, and cosmetics sector;
- research and academic institutions.

The wide range of employment opportunities reflects the comprehensive academic and professional training provided in pharmaceutical, chemical, and medical sciences.

10. Conclusions

The study program strategy for the “Master of Science” in Pharmacy aims to ensure sustainable program development, preservation of academic tradition, improvement of teaching quality, and strengthening of scientific research.

The Department of Pharmacy remains committed to educating competent, ethical, professional, and responsible pharmacists who will contribute to the improvement of public health and the development of the pharmaceutical and healthcare system in the country.

