

## **School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Fact Sheet**

### **Overview:**

The history of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPAHP) dates back to 1905, with the establishment of the Creighton College of Pharmacy. The school expanded to include other health professions (respiratory therapy, nurse anesthesia, and medical technology) and today, in addition to pharmacy, offers clinical doctorate degrees in occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT), and a bachelor's degree in emergency medical services (EMS). In 2002, the school changed its name to the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Today, about 1,100 students are enrolled in the school, with 950 entry-level professional students and 170 postprofessional students. One hundred faculty members provide instruction.

A degree in pharmacy at Creighton has evolved from a Graduate in Pharmacy (Ph.G.) in 1905 to a Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.C.) established in 1920, a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B.S.Pha.) initiated in 1935, and a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) first offered in 1976 and today the sole degree for pharmacy in the United States. In 2001, Creighton established the nation's first distance-based, entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

### **Faculty:**

- Pharmacy student-faculty ratio: 9 to 1; PT student-faculty ratio: 10 to 1; OT student-faculty ratio: 7 to 1.
- Creighton University Medical Center is one of the nation's leading teaching hospitals and one of the world's most diverse medical communities. Students train with hundreds of the region's most accomplished health professionals.
- Creighton faculty members serve nationally in their professional organizations, such as the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).
- The school's faculty has earned a national reputation for excellence in clinical education and research. PT professors conduct landmark research on human gait in the Creighton Biodynamics Lab. Pharmacy professors receive research grants in pharmacy sciences and practices and are pioneers in veterinary therapeutics. OT professors write textbooks and receive national awards for teaching excellence.
- Creighton has one of the largest OT faculties in the nation, and 12 faculty hold doctoral degrees.

**Students:**

- Students from 45 states and 10 countries are pursuing clinical doctorates from Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.
- Students are taught to be mission-minded. Every year, Creighton University health sciences students serve more than 4,000 people through community-service activities. They work in pro-bono clinics for the underserved, conduct drug and alcohol education seminars, and volunteer with local charities.
- The school is deeply committed to enhancing diversity among students and faculty. The current student body of 1,100 includes more than 10 percent under-represented minorities.
- The Office of Health Sciences' Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS MCCA) works to ensure under-represented students' academic and professional development. The office offers health care seminars, summer research programs, financial counseling, academic counseling, mentoring, social and cultural activities, and prehealth advising.

**Alumni:**

- More than 75 percent of graduates receive one to three job offers before they graduate.
- The school has its own assistant dean for alumni relations who works with an outstanding alumni advisory board.
- The school produces an alumni newsletter each semester and an annual report.
- Additionally, the school's alumni relations office hosts several social events for alumni, including athletic event outings, receptions at professional national meetings, and a career fair that pairs alumni and other employers with graduating students.

**Curriculum and Service:**

- Pharmacy and health professions students choose from hundreds of clinical training sites in every health care category including pediatric, geriatric, mental health and community development in large hospitals as well as small rehabilitation clinics.
- The school's students devote many hours to serving uninsured patients in the local Omaha community.
- Third-year OT students create their own professional rotations, and many follow mission-based service in countries such as the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.
- PT students choose from more than 350 clinical training sites in 45 states and seven foreign countries.
- Pharmacy students choose from more than 300 clerkship sites in the United States.

- The pharmacy curriculum is scheduled for renovation beginning in the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Points of Pride:**

- Pharmacy, occupational therapy and physical therapy students participate in a professionalism ceremony at the beginning of their course of study. During the ceremony, they take a professionalism oath to express their commitment to the calling of health care provider.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Creighton's PT doctorate program as 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation, the OT doctorate program as 28<sup>th</sup>, and the pharmacy program as 42<sup>nd</sup>. OT is one of the top five among Midwest schools.
- All pharmacy students are issued laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) that are fully serviced by the school's staff. These state-of-the-art machines are incorporated into every aspect of learning.
- Creighton PT students receive more than 46 weeks of clinical training, up to 10 weeks more than students at other Midwest schools.
- The clinical doctorate degree has been the standard in the SPAHP for longer than at any other institution. Creighton was the first in the nation to offer a doctorate in OT and PT. It also offered the first web-based, entry-level clinical doctorate in pharmacy.
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment for pharmacists, physical therapists and occupational therapists will grow faster than average for all occupations through 2014.
- All Creighton programs are fully accredited for the maximum cycles. Creighton's Pharm.D. program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the PT program by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), and the OT program by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).