

Earn Your Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences



WHY PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES?

The Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences prepares students for careers in a multidisciplinary field that evaluates effectiveness/safety, cost, access, and quality of pharmaceutical care from clinical, sociobehavioral, economic, organizational and technological perspectives.

Within the program, the Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy (PHOP) concentration offers structured learning in:

- Pharmacoepidemiology
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Health care systems, quality, and health behavior
- Biostatistics

Additional options include a dual degree Ph.D./M.A. in Applied Economics and a joint SAS Certificate in “Health Analytics and Real World Evidence.”

Career outlook: PHOP graduates are in high demand by the pharmaceutical industry, health care consulting firms, pharmacy benefit management companies, health care organizations, academia, and government/regulatory agencies.

WHY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON?

PHOP faculty members bring expertise across pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research, public health, biostatistics, and sociobehavioral/administrative pharmacy. They collaborate with colleagues and institutions throughout the world-renowned Texas Medical Center (TMC) and beyond, offering abundant opportunities for multidisciplinary research in prospective and retrospective studies.

Core PHOP faculty (11): Drs. Rajender Aparasu, Susan Abughosh, Hua Chen, Ekere James Essien, Jieni Li, Xi Lu, Dipali Rinker, Sujit Sangsiry, Moosa Tatar, Douglas Thornton, and Tiansheng Wang.



Data strengths: Faculty conduct research using a range of health care databases, including Medicare and Medicaid claims, Merative MarketScan Research Databases, TriNetX Electronic Health Record databases (EHR), and IQVIA Ambulatory EHR.

Current projects span: pharmacoepidemiology in the elderly and pediatric/adolescent populations; innovative pharmacoepidemiologic methods development; HIV/AIDS prevention and education; medication labeling and health literacy; comparative safety and effectiveness; behavioral interventions; prescription drug misuse; health care quality; health disparities; and health information technology.

APPLICATIONS DETAILS

Deadline: January 3, 2026

Eligibility: Applicants hold a B.S. or M.S. in pharmacy, medicine, epidemiology, health informatics, biostatistics, mathematics, economics, social sciences, data engineering, computer sciences, or a closely related field.

GRE: Required; waivers may be considered on a case-by-case basis.



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