

Pharmtox Course Selection Q&A Summary

July 2015

Here is a summary of questions we were asked at our Q&A event. Please don't forget that the official sources for course requirements and related information are the Arts & Science Timetable and Course Calendar, as well as the Pharmacology and Toxicology departmental website (<http://www.pharmtox.utoronto.ca>). Contact your college registrar or the Pharmtox Undergraduate Coordinator (undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca) if you have any personal questions regarding your courses or graduation requirements.

Check the PTSA website for **course commentary** from students about PCL courses:

<http://ptsa.sa.utoronto.ca/resources>

In regards to questions about **course syllabi** or mark distribution, the PTSA does not have or provide the previous syllabi for PCL courses. You can try to obtain syllabus information from the listed course instructor or from the Undergraduate Coordinator.

I just got into the Pharmacology specialist. Are we expected to take 5 courses each semester?

There's no expectation to take 5 courses each semester, I suppose if you are only looking to complete the Bachelors of Science. You can take any number you wish until you finish.

Optimally, you would have to take 4 or 5 each semester to finish in a timely fashion of four years.

If you are interested in professional school like med school or grad school, look into each university's site to see if they require 5 courses per semester for four years.

Is taking fourth year courses in third year is a good idea?

If you've fulfilled the pre-requisites and you think you've performed well in those courses, then it's feasible to take fourth year courses in third year. You wouldn't want to add on too many, because most of them are a step up from third year courses! PCL469 is often taken in third year by many students.

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In terms of the calendar that we refer to, is it the calendar in which we entered the specific POST? Or do we refer to the year in which we entered the "General" POST?

For third and fourth year requirements, you should follow the calendar year you were admitted into the specific POST, not the general POST.

Are there any benefits of being in Pharmacology Specialist compared to Major?

It's basically the same as asking for the differences between major and specialist of any department in terms of education -- you need to take more in-depth courses about pharmacology, and you may get priority for some courses. You need to do a fourth year thesis project course (PCL472/474), which is a definite way of getting research experience. Unlike other life science specialists, Pharmtox offers the PEY (co-op year) program. You can find details on the department website.

Would taking PCL461 and PCL469 together in the winter semester of third year be too hectic?

469 is recommended preparation for 461, so it might be more challenging if you're just taking them concurrently. If you stay organized, it is possible to manage both of them. There is actually a considerable amount of material overlap between 461 and 469 for some labs.

I'm on my 4th year. However, I will most likely stay another year because I switched my program for pharmacology. Would it be still possible to join PEY?

As listed on the info page on the department, it does say "between 3rd and 4th year", which would probably depend on your number of credits. This would be a specific issue you'd have to ask the program coordinator about, to see if she will accept your application. Also, consider that PEY is one full year; you'll have to put off graduation another year.

Is there any third year research project course we can take as a pharmacology specialist?

There is the PCL297 course that is not restricted to second years only. It's a pass/fail course so there will be assignments but you won't receive a final grade on your transcript. You may want

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to contact Dr. Hamadani or the undergrad Pharmtox office for information and a ballot to apply, as you can't do it on ROSI.

Do the new PCL electives (e.g. Cancer Pharm, PK seminar) count towards the 2.0 PCL elective requirements for specialists (even though they're not mentioned in "our year" calendar?)

Yes, the new PCL electives do count towards the 2.0 PCL elective requirements for specialists.

I added the afternoon section of pcl366 to my enrolment cart with no problem, but when I tried to enroll in it today after my start time ACORN said that section's enrolment was blocked so I had to enroll in the morning section. Will enrolment for the afternoon section be unblocked when on the start day for 3rd years?

PCL366 follows a priority restriction policy. Until priority is lifted on August 7th enrolment for the afternoon section is limited only to students in the double specialist and the specialist in biomedical toxicology. The morning section is available for all students in a specialist program in the department. So you will be able to enroll in the afternoon session on August 7th at 6AM. You can find more information here in the timetable.