Major Program

The WIU Department of Chemistry offers a program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry–Pharmacy option. The bachelor's degree in chemistry–pharmacy option is a focused degree in chemistry that emphasizes the chemical nature, effect, action and metabolism of drugs. This program is unique, as no other pharmacy options for degrees in chemistry or biology are identified (either on the web or through the American Chemical Society or the American Institute for Biological Sciences).

Western Illinois University's chemistry–pharmacy option program targets those students who seek a career as a pharmacist (Pharm.D.) or pharmacologist (Ph.D.), but it would also benefit students who wish to work in the pharmaceutical or biotech industries. The pharmacy option will also be useful to students seeking careers in forensic pharmacology; pharmaceutical sales or as certified pharmacy technicians, pharmacy assistants and other healthcare professionals. Pharmaceutical science has seen enormous growth in the past 30 years. As medical knowledge increases, new drugs are constantly being designed, developed and formulated. With an aging population in the United States, employment in the health care industry is likely to increase over the next couple of decades.

Career Opportunities

Individuals trained as chemists with a focus in pharmacy have a variety of employment opportunities available. The Bachelor of Science in Chemistry–Pharmacy option is designed to better prepare students interested in careers in pharmacy for either Pharm.D. or Ph.D. programs in pharmacology. Those choosing not to pursue advanced training in graduate or pharmacy school generally find employment working in pharmaceutical industry labs, government/health department labs or in a pharmacy or hospital laboratory setting. Additionally, the chemistry–pharmacy option will greatly aid those individuals who seek careers in pharmaceutical sales and marketing. Industries hiring chemists include, but are not limited to, pharmaceuticals, foods and the emerging biotechnology industry.

Articulation Agreement with University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy

Western Illinois University has established an articulation agreement with the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy for implementation of guaranteed admission of WIU students into its Doctorate of Pharmacy program. The conditions for retention and matriculation include that students earn a baccalaureate degree within five years of freshman enrollment; complete specific chemistry and pharmacy coursework with a 3.5 GPA or higher; take the Pharmacy College admissions test and demonstrate an interest in pharmacy through an internship, research, etc.

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master’s Degree in Chemistry

The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master’s Degree in Chemistry provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate chemistry majors to complete both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in chemistry in a single five-year period.

Scholarships

The WIU Department of Chemistry offers the Margaret and Jack Stites Memorial Scholarship especially for students pursuing a career in pharmacy. The department also offers four scholarships for chemistry majors in all options: Maurice Peterson Outstanding Freshman, Outstanding Sophomore, Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Senior Scholarships. Additional scholarships are named for distinguished faculty in the department. The Norbert Goeckner Scholarship is awarded annually to a chemistry major.
Recognizes the needs of the region, state and society, and it plays a significant role in cultural, economic and educational developments.

WIU is an interactive public university serving more than 11,000 enrolled students. Along with its comment to students, WIU

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Contact the WIU Department of Chemistry at (309) 298-1538 or by email at wiu.edu/chemistry.

For More Information

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