

The following is a synopsis of the first summer program for the Pharm.D/MBA program put together by a member of the founding Pharm.D-MBA class.

The MBA program started with a welcoming to the Rawls College of Business. We took a test on the very first day to see how well we ranked individually in our business skills alongside all the other business students taking the test at the same time. After that initial day, it was all downhill from there!

Orientation lasted for the first two weeks of classes which included learning about interviewing skills, communication skills, getting refreshers on economics and accounting, and having a chance for team building exercises with your peers and other MBA students from the colleges of medicine, law and others.

The classes in the first summer semester were business classes include marketing, statistics, accounting, financial management, and organizational management with a total of six classes. For the first part of the summer, three classes ran Monday through Friday from 9a-12:30p and every other weekend from 9a-5p for four weeks. The only difficult part in our situation was the orientation that ran in the afternoon for the first two weeks, which cut into studying and homework time. This increased the pressure on having extremely efficient time management.

The second part of the summer, three classes ran Monday through Friday from 1p-5:30p and every other weekend from 9a-5p for four weeks. The organizational management classes were the ones that ran on the weekends and these were very group oriented with projects and reports to write. These could be intense at times but we only had a total of four classes to go to with each course.

Time management is probably the best recommendation I could give to prospective Pharm.D-MBA candidates, keeping up with the material and having someone to talk about assignments. Discussing business concepts with peers is how they are able to become concrete when there are only four weeks to learn the material before the next set of classes. All in all, I would say that the program was a big change from the science classes I had taken the year previously in pharmacy school, but it was a chance to expand my horizons and look at the world in a different light,; not numbers and drugs and formulas, but from a business perspective on how to market any business, find and provide financial information, and work with people.