

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The idea of a Pharm.D-MBA program was born in early 2006 in discussions between several faculty at the Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business and the Texas Tech University Health Science Center, School of Pharmacy. The central theme to the discussions was the need to develop and train the future leaders of the profession. The Health Organization Management concentration within the MBA program matched what the pharmacy faculty believed were the necessary areas of focus to develop strong leaders in health care organizations.

The curriculum emerged after several rounds of negotiation between the programs keeping in mind the accreditation requirements of business and pharmacy. The curricular design model was determined after reviewing other Pharm.D-MBA programs matched with the teaching schedules and course prerequisites. Rather than adopting the various models currently in use throughout the U.S., the faculty chose to use a dual-degree approach and integrate both programs into a typical 4-year course of study. Since the program was structured to be a dual-degree, it was essential that all of the approved content for both degree plans be met.

The initial plan was to create several tracks for Pharm.D students to obtain the MBA. The first track would be to offer the opportunity of taking the MBA coursework to rising P-2 and rising P-3 students with the goal to phase out the P-3 program and only retain the rising P2 program. This track required the development of separate curricula to ensure that all requirements for both the Pharm.D and MBA were met. The first students began class in the summer 2009. This track will end with the graduation of this first class.

The second track was viewed as the most desired by the faculty at both colleges. This involved offering the program to P0-P1 students (accepted into pharmacy school but not currently enrolled in pharmacy courses) as well as rising P2 students. The P0 students would begin MBA coursework in the summer prior to enrollment in the pharmacy school. The rising P2 students would begin their MBA program in the summer between the P1 and P2 years. The summer 2010 class will be the first under this track.

The third track was viewed as a future development and would involve the creation of a post-Pharm.D graduate program that might, if the student chose, involve a concurrent 2-year management residency program. A start date for this track has not been identified.

The Pharm.D-MBA program at Texas Tech is the 31<sup>st</sup> program in the country and is the only program between Georgia and Arizona. The HOM program at the College of Business is one of the few accredited programs for health organization management in the country.