The main campus at Auburn University has more than 25,000 students enrolled in 13 schools and colleges, making it one of the larger universities in the South. The city of Auburn, Ala., is a friendly university town located on the beautiful plains of eastern Alabama, 50 miles east of Montgomery, Alabama’s capital, and 115 miles southwest of Atlanta, Ga. The Gulf coasts of Alabama and Florida are about four hours away by car. Auburn enjoys a warm sunny climate with mild winters. It has excellent health and recreational facilities and a low crime rate.
Research and teaching in the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy (HORP) seeks to improve medication-related outcomes, considering the perspective of patients, providers, and policymakers. This includes social and behavioral aspects of pharmacy, research to maximize medication-related outcomes, and comparative effectiveness and safety research.

The objective of the graduate program is to prepare students for independent, theory-based research to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes and well-being. The department offers MS and PhD degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Priority admissions are made for those interested in pursuing the PhD degree as opposed to the MS degree. Students who have the potential to contribute significantly to research within the HORP department are from health professional programs or a wide variety of disciplines such as the behavioral sciences, psychology, sociology, engineering, education, economics, management, public health, and communications.

**WHY HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH AND POLICY?**

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

HORP faculty and graduate students study pharmacy practice, healthcare delivery, and health outcomes in order to contribute to improvements in patient care and health policy. Research areas focus on:

- Patient health behaviors
- Provider care behaviors
- Health outcomes assessment
- Medication errors and drug safety
- Organizational change and innovation adoption
- Health information technology
- Pharmacy informatics
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Medication adherence
- Behavioral economics
- Pharmaceutical policy

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The HORP program uses a student-centered approach, customizing the plan of study to meet specific learning needs for the chosen field of study. General requirements and required courses must be completed by all students in both the MS and PhD programs. Master’s students must complete at least 30 semester hours of coursework, including at least six-credit-hours of statistics. They must also complete thesis requirements. PhD students must complete at least 60 semester hours of coursework, including at least 12-credit-hours of statistics. They must also pass the doctoral comprehensive exams and complete dissertation requirements. All students must complete core courses which include:

- PYPC 7510: Health Services Delivery and Evaluation (3 credits)
- PYPC 7520: Social and Behavioral Theory in Health (3 credits)
- PYPC 7530: Pharmaceutical Economics, Outcomes, and Policy (3 credits)
- PYPC 7540: Pharmacoepidemiology Methods and Applications (3 credits)
- PYPC 7820: Research Methods in Health Sciences (2 credits)
- PYPS 7960: Grant Writing (2 credits)
- PYPC 7950/8950: Graduate Research Seminar (6 semesters x 1 credit/semester)

**OUR GRADUATES**

HORP graduate students will be prepared to enter careers in various settings, including academia, health outcomes research firms, consulting firms, regulatory agencies (e.g., the Food and Drug Administration), the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare delivery/managed care organizations, professional associations, or administrative positions within pharmacies or hospitals. For those students interested in academia, faculty salaries in schools of pharmacy have been significantly higher than those for other campus disciplines. Average time to complete the PhD degree is four to six years, although students are encouraged to finish in four years or less.

**TO APPLY**

Visit pharmacy.auburn.edu/horp/admission_information.htm.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Teaching and/or research assistantships are awarded to qualified graduate students on a competitive basis. Students who receive an assistantship also qualify for tuition fellowships. To learn more, visit www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/programfunds. Students also are mentored in the development and submission of competitive external fellowships and awards.