ASC School of Pharmacy

History

The School of Pharmacy was transferred from Holberton Hospital to the Antigua State College (ASC) in 1998. With the transfer to ASC, the Pharmacy Programme was transformed from a three-year apprentice certificate course of training to an academically structured three-year diploma programme. To meet the complicated nature of pharmaceutical care, the programme was upgraded to an associate degree programme by 2017.

The pharmacy programme is continuously evolving to ensure that students are equipped with the requisite knowledge and qualification. Hence, ASC is currently exploring the possibility of offering a degree in pharmacy shortly. In the interim; we are seeking out partnerships with other Pharmacy Schools within the region.

What is Pharmacy?

Pharmacy is defined as "that profession which is concerned with the art and science of preparing from natural and synthetic sources suitable and convenient drugs for distribution and use in the treatment and prevention of disease. It embraces the knowledge of the identification, selection, pharmacologic action, preservation, combination, analysis and standardization of drugs and medicines. It also includes their proper and safe distribution. It uses, whether dispensed on the prescription of a licensed physician, dentist or veterinarian, or, in those instances where it may be legally done, dispensed or sold directly to the consumer…" (Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy 22 ed.)

The goal of the Department

To train highly skilled and knowledgeable pharmacists who will provide the highest quality pharmaceutical care to patients and act as a repository of pharmaceutical information to healthcare professionals within Antigua & Barbuda and the region.

Vision

To become a recognized leader of Pharmacy education within the Eastern Caribbean.

ASC

A Department of the Ministry of Education, St. John's, Antigua
A founding member of the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions Inc. (ACTI)

Mission

The mission of the School of Pharmacy is to prepare students for the practice, as competent, caring, ethical professionals dedicated to the profession of pharmacy. This will be done through a balanced program of education, research, and service.

Core Values

The school is committed to the following core values:

Professionalism: To act with integrity, honesty, confidentiality, reliability, ethics, moral courage, humility, respect, and accountability.

Service orientation: To serve others in an altruistic and cooperative manner.

Collaboration: To engage in creative partnerships locally and globally to advance health education, research, and practice.

Administration

Students who register for the programme will follow the general guidelines of the institution as well as the specific regulations of the department. It is a legal requirement for all pharmacy students to be registered with the Antigua & Barbuda Pharmacy Council which must be done within the first trimesters and keep in compliance with the relevant pharmacy laws that govern the profession.

The course of study is spread over a period of three trimesters per year for three years. It is anticipated in the future that the programme will be spread for six (6) consecutive semesters averaging 14 weeks of intensive work each semester.

Certification

Upon successful completion of all course requirements; students will be awarded an Associate Degree in Pharmacy after three years. This Certification will be awarded after the successful completion of all 120 credits.

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General Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a minimum of five (5) passes at CSEC General Proficiency Level with Grade 1, 2 or 3 (after June 1998) **OR** five (5) passes at GCE Ordinary Level with Grades A, B or C. The five subjects must include English A, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology or Human & Social Biology **OR** Any qualification considered by the College to be equivalent to the afore-mentioned. Minimum age of the applicant should be 17 years old.

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