

BSc PHARMACOLOGY

HONORS OR SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BSc HONORS, SPECIALIZATION AND GENERAL PROGRAMS AT UOFA

The 4-year **Honors programs** are the most desired route for students continuing to Master of Science (MSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a research or academic career. Honors students focus on their major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a Specialization or General program.

The 4-year **Specialization programs** do not concentrate on one subject to the same extent as the Honors programs. Specialization students take most of their courses in the major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a General program. The Specialization degree can provide the background to help you proceed to a higher degree, but its primary function is to provide a comprehensive education at the undergraduate level.

Transfer admission to Honors and Specialization programs requires a minimum course load and GPA in each year of post-secondary education preceding admission. Students wishing to move into these programs must meet the requirements regardless of their original/current program of study.

The 4-year **General program** provides a diverse education in more than one branch of study. Each student must complete a Science major and also a second Science major *or* complete a minor. The minor may be in Science or in Agricultural, Life & Environmental Science, Arts or Business. This program allows for subsequent transfer to Specialization and Honors programs and may be used to prepare for admission to professional programs.

An Honors or Specialization program is available in Pharmacology. Honors prepares students for advanced study leading to academic or research careers. Specialization is for students wanting to pursue further studies in the health sciences and those who want to prepare for a career in the Pharmaceutical industry. Although not as rigorous as an Honors program, the specialization route is a solid background for advanced study leading to a career in academia or research.

Pharmacology studies the way in which chemical substances affect living organisms. As a pharmacologist, you would find employment opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, government departments, universities and research institutes. Within the pharmaceutical industry, you might be involved in activities relating to the development, formulation, production or marketing of new drugs for clinical use. Alternatively, you might find similar employment opportunities within the food and cosmetic industries or any industry that requires safety assurance for new products. A number of departments within the federal and provincial governments hire pharmacologists: Health Protection Branch, Dept. of Health and Welfare; Pest Control Division, Agriculture Canada; Dept. of National Defense, provincial research councils, Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Environment, etc. Academic appointments within universities and institutes or senior research appointments in any of the positions mentioned above require PhD. University of Alberta BSc Pharmacology graduates are well prepared for graduate programs anywhere in North America.

Suggested Pattern of Courses Year 1

FALL TERM	WINTER TERM
BIOL 218 (3)	BIOL 217 (3)
ENGL 219 (3) ¹	ENGL 220 (3) ¹
CHEM 211 (3)	CHEM 212 (3)
STAT 251 (3)	CHEM 351 (3)
Science Option (3) ²	Science Option (3) ²

NOTES:

- *6 in Arts Options may be taken instead of *6 English; however, English courses are recommended by the Pharmacology Department.
- Choose courses from: BIOL 301, 317, 318; MATH 202 (or 203), 204, 221; PHYS 205 or 241, PHYS 226 or 247; ZOOL 325, 342. Some of these courses have prerequisites. Students with 70% or higher in Math 31 who are taking calculus should take MATH 203 instead of MATH 202.

ALL BACHELOR OF SCIENCE STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

- Consult [Course Descriptions](#) for possible course prerequisites,
- Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to UofA, and
- Consult the [University of Alberta Calendar](#) for admission and program information.

TRANSFER CHECKLIST

- Junior Level Courses:** Not more than *42 (42 credits) of all courses taken can be at the junior level (100-level at UofA). Any junior course in excess of *42 will not be counted towards the Science degree.
- Honors Program:** Transfer admission to this Honors Program requires a minimum 3.3 GPA on all Science courses taken in *each preceding Fall/Winter* and a minimum 3.3 GPA on *30 in *each preceding Fall/Winter*. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
- Specialization Program:** Transfer admission to this Specialization Program requires a minimum 2.7 GPA on all Science courses taken in *each preceding Fall/Winter* and a minimum 2.7 GPA on a minimum *24 in *each preceding Fall/Winter*. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
- Spring term courses:** a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. Ensure the transcript submitted shows registration in the spring course
- A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for course credit to be transferable. However, while courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. Please consult with Faculty of Science and Registrar at UofA if further information is necessary.
- Conditional Admission:** If you have higher than average standing in your post-secondary courses, you may be eligible for conditional admission. Transcript deadline for conditional admission: March 15th. See UofA website.
- Course Attempts:** Students attending UofA are allowed to attempt a course no more than two times and cannot retake a course in which a passing grade was received. However, UofA honours the decisions of other institutions with respect to their students; if a student attempts a course twice at RDC (withdrawal, failing grade or non-transferable grade), UofA will accept the third attempt (if it is a C- or better) when determining transfer credit.

When calculating the AGPA, UofA will use all grades obtained in the most recent terms containing at least *24, including both a failing/non-transferable grade and a transferable grade in the same course. The first grade of C- or better received in a course is the only grade accepted for that course. Therefore, repeating a course for a higher grade is not advisable. If a student truly believes that he/she needs to repeat a course (in which a transferable grade was already earned) to master the material sufficiently to successfully continue in the program, it is recommended that the student audit the course.

- Academic Standing:** If you earn or have earned a GPA below 2.0 in any academic year of post-secondary education you are strongly advised to consult the UofA Calendar and contact the Faculty of Science **now** concerning your future

admission to programs in the faculty. See [UofA Calendar](#) 15.15.7(3) and 15.15.7(4) and contact information in *How to Find more Information*.

9. **Application deadline:** May 1st **Transcript deadline for transfer students:** June 15th
10. **Regarding course transfer to the University of Alberta & Augustana Faculty:** When checking course transfer to the University of Alberta, note that courses with *AU* as the first two letters of the course abbreviation in the Alberta Transfer Guide will transfer only to the UofA Augustana Faculty in Camrose. In order for a course to also transfer to other UofA faculties, there must be another entry indicating transfer as a course not beginning with *AU*. See example.

CMPT 214 = UofA CMPUT 114 (3) OR AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 261 = UofA AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 214 is transferable to all UofA faculties, including Augustana. CMPT 261 is accepted by Augustana Faculty only and will not transfer to other faculties at UofA.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

[Science Department](#)

Warren Elgersma, Chairperson

Office: 1607-E 403-343-4052

warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca

http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences

[Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102

advisors@rdc.ab.ca 403-342-3400

http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising

[RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

[RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

[Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

[Faculty of Science](#)

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca> 1-800-358-8314

[Department of Pharmacology](#)

<http://www.pacol.ualberta.ca> 780-492-3575

[University of Alberta](#)

<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

PLEASE NOTE:

Be aware you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.