

SWOSU Forms Dual Degree Program for Pharmacy Students Wanting MBA

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These SWOSU employees were instrumental in developing a new dual degree designated as Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters in Business Administration on the Weatherford campus. The program was developed for students who have been admitted and enrolled in the College of Pharmacy at SWOSU and will allow these students to complete both degrees simultaneously. Finalizing details are (from left): Dr. Ken Rose, Dr. Les Crall and Marci Grant, all from the SWOSU College of Professional and Graduate Studies, and Dr. Virgil VanDusen, Dr. Dennis Thompson and Dr. David Ralph, all from the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's College of Pharmacy and the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology in Weatherford have joined together to create a dual degree designated as Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters in Business Administration.

This PharmD/MBA dual degree program has been developed for students who have been admitted and enrolled in the College of Pharmacy at SWOSU and will allow these students to complete both degrees simultaneously. The first group of students will be admitted to the program this fall 2012.

"We've had a number of students who have expressed interest in such a program," said Dr. Dennis Thompson, dean of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. "The implementation of this dual degree program will ultimately provide additional opportunities for success of our graduates."

This program enables qualified Doctor of Pharmacy students to begin work on the MBA while still enrolled in the PharmD program. The dual degree program, while very attractive to many students, will require a high level of academic commitment in addition to the heavy demands of the PharmD program and will be limited to a small cohort of students per admission period.

"Creating this dual degree program is a win-win situation for both the College of Pharmacy and the School of Business and Technology," said Dr. Les Crall, associate dean of the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology. "We believe that by having pharmacy students will enhance our program even as our faculty will be able to enhance their educational experience."

The ultimate goal of the SWOSU PharmD/MBA program is to provide graduates with skills, knowledge and practical experience needed for career enhancement. As the number of new pharmacy schools continues to increase and place pressure on employment opportunities, such a program as this will provide SWOSU pharmacy graduates with the opportunity to enhance their employment options and elevate their employment standing.

Several SWOSU employees were instrumental in making the new program possible. They include: Dr. Virgil VanDusen, Dr. David Ralph and Thompson, College of

Pharmacy; and Dr. Ken Rose, Marci Grant and Crall, College of Professional and Graduate Studies.

Established in 1939, the SWOSU College of Pharmacy continues to be dedicated to the tradition of excellence in pharmacy education. The college will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2014.