



Educational Guideline for International Students
Faculty of Pharmacy
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Educational System

Article 1. Courses at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences are delivered in Persian.

Article 2. The International Students Office must assess the Persian language proficiency of applicants through a written test and interview before admission and registration.

Note 1. If there are at least 30 first-year international students proficient in English, first-year courses may be offered in English. With faculty approval, second-year classes may be offered in English. Persian-language instruction must be provided throughout the first year.

Note 2. Clinical assistants must prove sufficient Persian proficiency before beginning internship courses and in any setting involving patient interaction.

Article 3. Examinations in the first years (2 years) will be held bilingually.

Article 4. International students are allowed 25% extra time compared to Iranian students for answering exam questions in Persian (up to internship (Karamouzi) step).

Article 5. Education is credit-based. Each academic year consists of two semesters. The first semester starts in late September or early October, and the second semester starts in February. A summer semester may also be offered.

Note 1. If separate English-medium classes are formed, the first semester of the first year begins on November 1 and the second semester on April 1.

Note 2. For Persian-medium classes in the second or third year, the first semester begins on October 1, and the second semester on February 1.

Article 6. The value of each course is measured in credits, and student progress is evaluated accordingly.

Article 7. Each theoretical course unit consists of 16 hours of instruction plus one session for student evaluation, totaling 17 hours. Practical (or laboratory) courses include 32 hours; internship (Karamouzi) courses 51 hours.

Note 1. For foreign students in English-taught theoretical courses (first and second year), the faculty may increase contact hours up to 1.5× the standard to ensure mastery; the faculty may also run Persian reinforcement classes.

Note 2. Part of the instruction may be electronic (assignments with feedback; Q&A/office hours), but e-learning must not exceed 40% of the approved course content.

Note 3. Up to one week before finals, a student may request emergency withdrawal from a course if the total credits in the semester are not fewer than 10.

Article 8. The curriculum of each program follows the officially approved national curriculum.

Article 9. Faculties must implement the curriculum and syllabi approved by the Supreme Council for Medical Education Planning or the University Education Council.

Examinations and Evaluations

Article 10. At the end of the first stage, the Comprehensive Basic Sciences Examination will be held. Passing this exam is required to continue studies in Medicine and Dentistry. For Pharmacy students, the General Pharm.D. final exam is required.

Article 11. The evaluation of the student's academic progress in each course is based on the level of attendance and participation in classes, educational activities, and the results of midterm and final exams. The evaluation is conducted by the instructor or course supervisor who is responsible for assessing the student's performance in that course.

Article 12. The evaluation of a student's academic progress in internship and practical training courses in different fields is conducted according to the following criteria:

1. Commitment to Islamic and professional ethics, maintaining student conduct, and proper interaction with patients, clients, and staff.
2. Regular and complete attendance in related courses and classes.
3. Accuracy and sense of responsibility in performing assigned duties according to the related unit's regulations.
4. Increasing skills and efficiency gained from internship and practical training courses.
5. Participation in final exams of the units and obtaining the required grades.

Article 13. Holding a written exam at the end of each semester for the general pharmacy doctorate program is mandatory, and the final exams of internship and training units will be conducted at the end of each semester.

Article 14. The criterion for evaluating a student's academic progress is based on the contents stated in Articles 24 and 25, and the student's grade in each course is determined on a scale from 0 to 20.

Article 15. The minimum passing grade for all pharmacy courses (except for the thesis and internship courses) is 10, and the minimum average passing grade in the first and second stages is 12.

The minimum passing grade for internship and thesis courses (Thesis I, II, and III) is 14. A student who fails to achieve the minimum passing grade in these courses must retake them within a specified period. In such cases, the grade obtained, whether passing or failing, will be recorded in the student's transcript and will be included in the GPA calculation.

Course Units and Duration of Study

Article 16. The minimum and maximum number of course units required for graduation in the Doctor of Pharmacy general program shall be determined according to the curriculum approved by the Supreme Council for Medical Sciences Planning.

Article 17. A student in each academic semester of the Doctor of Pharmacy program must take at least 12 and at most 24 course units.

Note 1: In the final academic semester of any stage of education, a student may, with the observance of the prerequisite conditions, take fewer than 12 units if needed for graduation.

Note 2: If the total average of a student's grades in an academic semester is more than 17 out of 20, the student may, with the consent of their advisor and the approval of the faculty, take a maximum of 24 course units in the following semester.

Note 3: If a student has no more than 24 remaining units to complete any one of the educational stages, and provided the student was not placed on academic probation in the previous semester, then with the approval of the faculty the student may take all of those remaining units in that semester.

Note 4: In the summer semester, a student may not take more than 6 course units.

Article 18. Students admitted through the national university entrance exam in the Doctor of Pharmacy program, who based on their entrance exam results must take one or more prerequisite courses as determined by the University Education Council, are required to pass those courses with a satisfactory grade before starting the main courses of the curriculum. The credits for these prerequisite courses are in addition to the approved curriculum and are not counted toward the main academic semesters.

Note 1: The type of courses, number of units, detailed syllabus, and timing of teaching the prerequisite courses shall be determined by the University Education Council, based on the recommendations of educational departments.

Note 2: The educational affairs organization of the Ministry of Health shall review the grades of these courses after the results of the entrance exam are announced and will include them in the students' academic records.

Note 3: The presentation of prerequisite courses and the manner of conducting them in universities — in terms of how they are recorded in the student's transcript, included in the semester's grade point average, and their impact on probation or academic standing — shall be determined according to each university's internal regulations and the rules of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

Note 4: If, during the entire course of study, a student needs to pass at least eight course units prerequisite course, the maximum duration of study may be extended by one semester.

Attendance and Absence

Article 19. Attendance of students in all sessions related to each course and the internship or practical training units in the professional field is mandatory. Absence from any session is considered an absence.

Article 20. A student's total absences in a theoretical course must not exceed 23%, in laboratory or practical courses must not exceed 11%, and in internships or fieldwork must not exceed 10% of the total hours of that course.

Otherwise, the student's grade for that course will be recorded as zero.

Note 1: If a student's absence in class sessions does not exceed the permitted limit specified in Article 19, the absence will be considered excused only if the student presents valid documentation or evidence, and the instructor confirms it.

Note 2: If a student's absences in any course exceed the limits stated in Article 19 and are recognized as excused by the university's Educational Council, the course will be removed from the student's record.

In this case, observing the minimum requirement of 12 credits per semester is not mandatory, but the mentioned semester will still be considered a full academic semester.

Article 21. Unexcused absence from an examination will result in a zero grade for that course.

If the absence from the examination is deemed excused, the course will be removed from the student's record.

The determination of whether an absence from an exam is excused rests with the university's Educational Council