

USC School of Pharmacy

Fall 2021: RXRS 490: Directed Research

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Weight: 2 Units

Day/Time/Location: By appointment

Catalogue description: This is a demonstration of knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest which results in a product / project, research data, research paper, or portfolio of work, and a presentation.

Introduction

To better provide students with an education that leads them to being graduate school and career-ready, students in the Pharmacology and Drug Development (PDD) major will have the opportunity to participate in a RXRS-490: Structured Research Project. RXRS-490 should be

completed by the tenth week of the student's graduation semester. Students may complete their capstone after completing a minimum of four RXRS courses from the PDD major. These projects are a way to allow students to display their talents related to their pathway of interest. Reflecting on who they are while showing what they want to do, the project provides students with the opportunity to explore research projects of personal or professional interest and to address the latest trends or issue through focused study and applied research. The project allows students to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their academic studies to real-world issues and problems. These final projects should affirm students' ability to think critically and creatively, to solve practical problems, to make reasoned and ethical decisions, and to communicate effectively. PDD students should endeavor to actively integrate and apply all they have learned through their PDD coursework in the development, implementation, and analysis of a practical, hands-on project that addresses a problem or issue encountered by the student during their course of study. Students should seek a project that requires a creative solution and that they have a personal interest in exploring.

Objectives

This course is designed for undergraduates of both scientific and non-scientific majors with an interest in applying the skills and knowledge they have acquired through their PDD coursework.

This course is designed to:

- To provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their courses to research relating to a research area of interest
- To allow students to extend their academic experience into areas of personal or professional career interests, to include working with new ideas, organizations, or individuals
- To encourage students to think critically and creatively about academic, professional, and/or social issues and to further develop their analytical and ethical leadership skills
- To provide students with the opportunity to refine research skills and demonstrate their proficiency in written and/or oral communication skills

Communication Method

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Church via email (tdchurch@usc.edu). Your email will be attended as quickly as possible within a 48-hour window. For more urgent or pressing issues, please contact Dr. Church via telephone at 323.442.0241.

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation will be based on deliverables identified by the student and mentor and enumerated in the RXRS-490 Research Plan form.

The main requirements are:

1. Identification of a Mentor / Professor Advisor
2. Enrollment into RXRS-490
3. Development of an independent internship / research paper
4. Research data collection
5. Presentation – professional organization, internal research day, or other similar public dissemination of research results.

Required Text

There is no required text for this course.

Supplemental Texts and Multimedia

This course will be supplemented with a variety of source materials including online resources, media outlets, and cinema as it pertains to the student's area of interest and their research objectives. The selected materials are intended to provide students with a broader perspective by rounding out the information acquired by the student during their literature review.

Course Outline

This course will be in the format of one-on-one structured meetings. Students are expected to ask questions and participate in an interactive fashion.

Course Schedule

A schedule will be established between the mentor and student that will have at minimum 1-hour weekly meetings to discuss progress.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

uscsa.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.