

# FACULTY OF PHARMACY (FP)

## HISTORY

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### Pharmacy at USJ: Since 1883

Pharmacy studies at Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) began in November 1883 within the School of Medicine. Although not formally recognized at first, Reverend Father Clairet considered pharmacy an “essential complement to medicine.”

On October 6, 1888, the French government granted the School of Medicine the status and privileges of a medical faculty. The School of Pharmacy received official recognition on December 4, 1889, along with the authority to award degrees. Following this integration, the institution became the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, in line with international academic models.

In November 1912, the Faculty relocated to newly built facilities on Damascus Road, within the Medical Sciences Campus, due to space constraints. Admission requirements have evolved since 1889: initially based on age and education, they were replaced in 1940 by a competitive entrance exam. Today, candidates can apply through one of three methods: application file, competitive examination, or academic qualifications.

The pharmacy program and its duration have undergone significant changes:

- The initial 52-week internship, once completed during the first year, was later restructured into three-month summer sessions at the end of each academic year, with a hospital pharmacy internship added in 1993.
- Theoretical studies expanded from a three-year curriculum in 1889 to a five-year program.

Throughout its history, the Faculty has awarded various pharmacist diplomas:

- From November 1891 to November 1894, the French Minister of Public Instruction signed the diplomas.
- Between 1895 and 1898, the University of Lyon issued the diplomas under its seal.
- From 1899 to 1914, a joint jury awarded both the French State Diploma and the Ottoman State Diploma.
- In 1919, the Faculty discontinued the Ottoman State Diploma and continued to issue only the French Diploma of Pharmacist until 1976.
- From 1977 to 1981, students received both the French State Diploma and the Diploma from the Saint Joseph University.
- Since 1982, the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) from the Saint Joseph University has replaced the Pharmacist Diploma.

In 2002, a new program in Dietetics and Nutrition was introduced at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

In 2003, the School of Medical Lab Technicians (ETLAM) became affiliated with the Faculty.


Since 2014, the Health Technology Pole (PTS) at the Innovation and Sports Campus has housed new research laboratories for the Faculty:

- Laboratory of Biology, Laboratory of Microbiology Quality Control, and Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory - Lebanon
- Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Therapies
- Laboratory of Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacy and Drug Quality Control
- Laboratory of Human Nutrition

These laboratories complement those located at the Medical Sciences Campus:

- Laboratory of Toxicology and the Center for Poison Control
- Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Organic Chemistry Research
- Laboratories of Practical Work in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Industrial Pharmacy, as well as laboratories of ETLAM and the Experimental Kitchen.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education officially recognized the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) from the Saint Joseph University since 2017. This program comprises 360 credits, distributed over ten academic semesters and four summer trimesters.



This multidisciplinary program provides students with a comprehensive education. It allows them to specialize or work in various fields, including community pharmacy, industry, hospital and clinical pharmacy, medical analysis laboratories, pharmaceutical marketing, and biological and pharmaceutical research.

The Faculty also offers a wide range of complementary academic pathways, including university diplomas, DSS, Master degrees, and PhDs in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences or Nutritional Sciences.

## MISSION

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For over 120 years, the Faculty has remained dedicated to providing a strong academic foundation to help students succeed in their diverse professional fields. It fosters integrity in practice and prepares skilled specialists who embody professionalism, ethics, and respect for human values.

The Faculty offers:

- Comprehensive academic programs leading to a Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) meeting international standards, a Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics, or a Bachelor in Medical Laboratory Analysis, depending on the chosen track. The Faculty updates and expand its programs to meet the evolving needs of the profession and address national, regional, and international demands, while upholding academic excellence and modern teaching methods.
- PhD program that provides access to various specialties, including Medical Biology, as well as university doctorates in Pharmacology, Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Toxicology, and Microbiology.
- Research opportunities strengthened through national and international collaborations, co-supervised theses, and integration of Master's and PhD candidates into international research teams.
- Public health services offering diagnostic expertise, technical support, and access to reliable scientific information.

Clinical internships at the *Hôtel-Dieu de France* Medical Center in Beirut provide students with practical, hands-on experience in hospital pharmacy, clinical pharmacy, medical biology laboratories, and nutrition and dietetics.

The Faculty also provides lifelong learning opportunities for practicing pharmacists in community pharmacies, hospitals, or other institutions.

Additionally, it creates a supportive environment that fosters student growth in academics, culture, social life, and sports, within the USJ Community.

## ADMINISTRATION

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**Dean:** Hayat AZOURY TANNOUS

**Honorary Deans**

Fawaz FAWAZ

Hermine AYDENIAN

Dolla KARAM SARKIS

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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**Academic Affairs Administrative Coordinator:** Jacqueline BALLOUZ

**Administrative Affairs Assistant:** Amale CHEBLI

**Academic Support Officer:** Camelia BOUALEG

**Administrative Officer:** Mireille (EL) KHOURY

**Academic Support Officer:** Sabine SALAMEH

**Academic Affairs Administrative Coordinator:** Amale (EL) GHRAICHY ABI EZZ

**Laboratory Assistants:** Fabienne (EL) HAJJ MOUSSA LTEIF, Danielle CHAAYA

**Laboratory Technicians:** May MALLAH, Dana MATTAR, Charbel KARKAF, Sirine ABOU ISMAIL, Pierre MOUBARAK, Laurice TABET, Rita TABET

**Laboratory Aid:** Jihane (EL) MAWALI

**Cleanliness and Hygiene Officer:** Zeinab DIB MALLI





## FACULTY

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### Professors

Hayat AZOURY TANNOUS, Marianne ABI FADEL, Marie-Gabrielle GHORRA HINDI, Marlene KHALIL ABOU JAOUDE

### Associate Professors

Cynthia (EL) HELOU ABDELSATER, Diane ANTONIOS GHOLAM, Joseph MATTA, Krikor SAHAKIAN, Nour HELOU THEOKARIS, Rita HACHEM MEOUCHY, Salem (EL) KHARRAT

### Assistant Professors

Alexandre Pierre Jean MONNIER, Carine AYOUB, Khalil HELOU, May FAKHOURY, Mireille HARMOUCHE KARAKI, Nasma HAMDI (AL) NAJJAR HARB, Nathalie ASMAR YAGHI, Nicole FAKHOURY SAYEGH, Tatiana WAHANIAN PAPAIZIAN, Youmna GHALEB

### Lecturers

Crystal HAJJAR (EL) FREIJEH, Latifé KARAM KIREJIAN

### Instructors

Abdo AZAR, Adel RAFFOUL, Adib MOUKARZEL, Aline (EL) HAJJ, André ADAIMÉ, Antoine KARAM, Antoine ZOGBHI, Bassam EID, Carine SALEM MOUGHAYAR, Carla AOUN, Carla DEEB, Carla IRANI NASR, Carla KHATER SAOUMA, Carla SABA, Carole MOUKAWAM DIB, Carole SAADE RIACHI, Céline NOHRA, César YAGHI, Charbel KARKAF, Charbel KHACHAN, Charbel KHALIL, Charbel MOUAWAD, Christo HILANE, Dana (EL) HADDAD AZAR, Dania NEHME CHELALA, Dani TOUMA (EL) RASSY, Diala NACOUZI, Diane BAIRAMIAN, Elie ABDELSATER, Elie ATTIEH, Elie BADR, Elie BOU YAZBECK, Elie GHANEM, Elie GHAYAD, Elie MAALOUF, Elie WEHBÉ, Fadi NASR, Fadi REBEHMED, Fady BAKHACHE, Fawaz FAWAZ, Gaele KHANFOUR AOUN, Germain TRUGNAN, Ghassan SLEILATY, Hana HALABI NASSIF, Hanna (EL) TAWIL, Hicham JABBOUR, Hind HAJJ, Jean-Paul Carol SAHAKIAN, Jihane (EL) HOYEK BASSIL SUCCAR, Joseph BOUSTANY, Joseph (EL) CHIBANI, Kamal (EL) KALLAB, Karam CHAMOUN, Karim TORBEY, Krystel OUAJIAN KASSATLY, Lara ABDO, Léa ABI NASSIF, Liliane BOUKHDOUD, Lina GHANIMEH, Lina ISKANDAR (EL) HAWAT, Louis ABOU CHAYA, Lydia RABAA KHABBAZ, Marc BOUJI, Marianne HADDAD HJEIJ, Marie-Hélène GANNAGÉ YARED, Maya BOU KHALIL, May GERGES HARFOUCHE SAMAHA, May KASSAR NOHRA, Mélissa RIZK, Milad RIACHY, Mira AMMAR ITANI, Mirna GERMANOS HADDAD, Mona WAKED TABET, Moussa ALI, Moussa RIACHI, Nabil MAKHLOUF, Nadia Zeinab FAYAD, Nahida ASSAF EL KHOURY, Nayla SARGI, Nelly ZIADE ZOGBHI, Nicolas (EL) YAZIGI, Nina BOUTROS, Pamela (EL) HAJJ ASSAF, Pascale KARAM BAROUD, Paul Henri TORBEY, Pedro NAKHLE, Pierre GHORRA, Pierre KHOURY SEBAALANI, Racha (EL) AARAJ, Rafic (EL) HÉLOU, Rebecca (EL) KHOUEIRY, Régina (EL) GEITANI, Riad SARKIS, Roger OBEID, Roula ABI HABIB KHOURY, Salim MAKHOUL, Samer HARMOUCH, Sami RICH, Sélim JAMBART, Sima HAMADEH, Tarek ITANI, Zeina AOUN BACHA, Ziad KHOUEIR, Ziad NASSOUR

### Practical Trainers

Lucine HALEPIAN OULOJIAN, Marianne ANTAR SOUTOU

## DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

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### Pharmacy Program

Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate)

Master in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences

PhD in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences, Specialties:

- Pathogens and Antimicrobials
- Clinical Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, and Therapeutic Targets
- Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacy, and Drug Quality Control
- Clinical and Experimental Toxicology

Master in Pharmaceutical Marketing

Diploma of Specialized Studies in Biological Medicine

University Diploma in Clinical, Hospital, and Community Pharmacy (2 semesters)

### Nutrition Program

Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics

Master in Nutrition, Concentrations:

- Human Nutrition
- Sports Nutrition and Physiology

Master in Food Technology

PhD in Nutritional Science





## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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**Pharmacy:** Careers span community, clinical, and hospital pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry, marketing, medical lab management, public sector roles, and research or teaching in biological and pharmaceutical sciences.

**Nutrition:** Opportunities include private practice, hospital and sports dietetics, community nutrition, food marketing, public health, quality control, food production, research, and education.

## TUITION FEES

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### Pharmacy Program

Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate): 201 Fresh US Dollars and 7,710,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 287 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

Master in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences: 91 Fresh US Dollars and 3,490,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 130 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

Master in Pharmaceutical Marketing: 132 Fresh US Dollars and 5,073,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 189 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

PhD in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences, Specialties: Pathogens and Antimicrobials; Clinical Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, and Therapeutic Targets; Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacy, and Drug Quality Control; Clinical and Experimental Toxicology: 76 Fresh US Dollars and 2,865,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 108 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

### Nutrition Program

Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics: 132 Fresh US Dollars and 5,073,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 189 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

Master in Nutrition, Concentrations: Human Nutrition, Sports Nutrition and Physiology; Master in Food Technology: 132 Fresh US Dollars and 5,073,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 189 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

PhD in Nutritional Science: 76 Fresh US Dollars and 2,865,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 108 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

## SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Attendance Monitoring


- Attendance is mandatory and monitored. (Article 8 of the USJ Internal Regulations of Study)
- Students' attendance and engagement have a direct impact on their assessment throughout the semester, evaluated through the course's learning outcomes by means of written and oral assessments, projects, and individual work.
- To be eligible for a course's final exam, in both the first and second sessions, students must attend at least 70% of in-person sessions.
- Attendance for practical sessions and supervised work is strictly monitored. Students are not permitted to take the final exam if their attendance falls below 80% of the total course duration.

Excused absences may be granted by the Dean upon approval from the Faculty Board. For absences exceeding two consecutive weeks, students must obtain prior authorization from the Dean, with Faculty Board approval, or risk losing the right to continue the semester.

#### Exam Organization

The academic year consists of two academic semesters, except for the fifth year of pharmacy, for which specific provisions are outlined separately.

Courses are organized by semester, with corresponding semester exams. During the first four years, summer trimesters are also held, focusing mainly on professional internships in community pharmacies and laboratories,





classes focused on relevant topics, and role-playing exercises in the pilot pharmacy.

## **Exam Procedures**

### **First Session**

For theoretical courses of 1 to 2 credits, a final exam is conducted (with or without a midterm). For theoretical courses of more than 3 to 4 credits:

- A midterm exam evaluates the first part of the course and account for 25% of the final grade.
- A final exam covers the entire course and contribute 70% to the final grade. Practical work (TP) may account for 5% of the final grade.
- At the end of the semester, each course grade is calculated based on the midterm exam, final exam, and practical work (and/or laboratory sessions for courses where lab grades are integrated into the theoretical course grades).

In case of a justified absence from the midterm exam, the final exam grade combined with the practical work (TP) score will constitute 100% of the final grade.

### **Practical Teaching**

Students are assessed throughout the semester during each practical session, based on task execution, results obtained, and written evaluations related to the practical work and applied methods.

The overall score for the first session is the average of these grades for each subject.

To pass the practical teaching in pharmacy and nutrition programs, students must obtain a minimum grade of 10/20 or 50/100. Those who fail to achieve this score must attend a second session for the relevant subjects.

When practical work is integrated into a specific course, students must also score at least 10/20 or 50/100 on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the practical course. This will account for 25% of the final grade, which is calculated as follows: 25% from the midterm exam, 25% from practical work, and 50% from the final exam.

### **Course Completion Conditions**

#### **1 - Course Completion:**

A course is considered successfully completed when the student obtains a minimum grade of 10/20 or 50/100.

#### **2 - Semester Completion:**

A semester is validated when the student achieves a minimum grade of 10/20 or 50/100 in each course.

- If a student earns a grade below 10/20 or 50/100 in one or more courses, they must retake the corresponding exam during the second session.

### **Second Exam Session**

Students who do not pass the final exam in the first session, may register in the second session following the deliberation of the jury. The scores obtained from the midterm exam will also contribute to the final grade after taking the second exam session.

Students who fail the second exam session must retake the course in the following academic year for which they did not achieve a passing score (from either the first or the second semester).

### **Prerequisite Courses**

Some courses may have prerequisites, which are other required courses within the study program. The jury must validate the program learning outcomes and corresponding credits for these courses before a student can register for the course.

### **Remarks**


#### **1. Absence and Assessment**

Any student who is absent for an assessment, other than the final exam, must justify their absence by presenting a valid written excuse within three working days.

Students who are unable to attend a midterm exam, for a reason deemed valid by the Dean and approved by the Faculty Board, will have the final exam account for 100% of the grade (or 75% if practical work is integrated, with its grade comprising 25%). Students absent for the first session of the final exam due to a justified reason will retake the exam in the second session.

Any absence from the second session must be justified to the Dean and approved by the Faculty Board. In cases





of force majeure, an exception may be made for an additional second session, subject to the Faculty Board's approval.

## **2. Posting and Reviewing Grades**

Once exams are validated, midterm grades for theoretical courses are posted on each student's personal USJ account. Final results are made available after the exam juries' deliberations.

Students may submit a written request to review their exam paper within five working days of grade publication. Clerical errors (omission, addition, or deferral) will be corrected upon the decision of the Head of the Institution (Article 31 of the USJ Internal Regulations). If no such error exists, instructors may explain the mistakes that justify the assigned grade.

## **DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PRACTICING DOCTORATE)**

Pharmacy studies culminate in the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) consisting of 360 credits, completed over 10 semesters and 4 summer trimesters. The program is divided into two cycles:

First Cycle: 6 semesters spanning the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> academic years.

Second Cycle: 4 semesters during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> academic years, which includes summer trimesters, the mentioned internships, their validation, and the preparation and defense of a final thesis in the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

5<sup>th</sup> Year of Pharmacy:

The 5<sup>th</sup> year includes five distinct assessments, all required to obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) degree:

- Theoretical assessments for each course (final exam only, counting 100% of the grade).
- Validation of laboratory internship.
- Validation of hospital internship.
- Validation of community pharmacy internship.
- Defense of the end-of-study thesis.

### **1. Validation of Theoretical Courses**

This validation occurs at the end of each subject or group of subjects. All written exams are conducted anonymously. Students must achieve a minimum overall average of 10/20 in each subject to pass.

### **2. Validation of the Medical Lab Internship:**

This includes assessments in:

- Biochemistry
- Bacteriology
- Hematology or Immunology or Parasitology.

Students must attain a minimum overall average of 10/20 to validate the medical lab internship.

The jury may require additional internship work in a medical analysis laboratory in one or more specific domains for students who do not meet this standard.

### **3. Validation of Hospital Pharmacy Clinical Internship**


At the end of each rotation, the internship supervisor assigns a grade based on:

- Student attendance
- Evaluation by the department head
- Pharmaceutical knowledge
- Research skills and intellectual curiosity
- Oral case presentations and final rotation exam
- Motivation and collaboration with the medical team
- Internship report submitted at the end of each rotation.

The final hospital internship grade (10/20) is calculated as the average of all rotation grades completed by the student at HDF or affiliated hospitals.

### **4. Validation of Community Pharmacy Internship**

To be eligible, students must have completed all previous internships and achieved a minimum score of 10/20 in the Posology exam and the practical internship evaluation.







## 5. End-of-Study Thesis

To obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) degree, students who have passed the theoretical and practical exams, validated their internship, and successfully completed the qualifying exams must defend a thesis.

The Faculty proposes topics to students before the start of their fifth-year internship. A deadline for topic submission is established. The proposed Thesis Director and topic must be submitted in writing to the Dean for approval after consulting the Thesis Committee.

Thesis Defense Formalities:

1. Candidates submit three copies of their thesis to the Faculty Secretariat.
2. The Dean, based on the Thesis Director's recommendation and the peer-review committee's input, authorizes the defense and approves the jury composition and the defense date. The jury must include at least two members, with the president being a professor and at least one member a pharmacist from the Faculty of Pharmacy.
3. The defense is scheduled at least fifteen days after the thesis submission and receipt of defense authorization.
4. The Dean appoints the jury members, who receive a copy of the thesis along with an evaluation form. The evaluation focuses on bibliographic research, analytical and synthesis skills, personal contribution, and presentation quality.
5. The defense is public, consisting of a 15-minute presentation by the candidate, followed by a discussion with the jury.
6. After deliberation, the jury may reject the thesis or award one of the following distinctions:
  - Passing: 10–12/20
  - Honorable: 12–14/20
  - Very Honorable: 14–16/20
  - Very Honorable with Jury Praise: above 16/20
7. The jury prepares a defense report and submits it to the Secretariat.
8. Upon acceptance, the Faculty Secretariat issues a provisional certificate within five days. This certificate must be returned to collect the final diploma once it is issued.

## INTERNSHIPS

Internships duration: 52 weeks (364 days), with a daily commitment of 6 hours.

### 1. Pharmacy Internship

This 20-week internship must be completed during the non-academic periods, after the first year and before enrollment in the fourth year. The structure is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year: 7 weeks in a community pharmacy.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: 8 weeks in a community pharmacy.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year: 8 weeks in a community pharmacy.

### 2. Clinical Biology Internship

This internship is available to students who have successfully completed their fourth year of pharmaceutical studies. It lasts for 8 weeks and is conducted in a medical lab accredited by the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Lebanese Syndicate of Clinical Biologists.


### 3. Fifth-Year Internship

- Pharmacy or Industrial Internship

Students complete a 4-week internship (or the number of weeks necessary to meet the regulatory internship requirements). This internship may take place in either a community pharmacy or an industry approved by the Faculty, subject to available placements.

### 4. Clinical Pharmacy Internship

The clinical pharmacy internship occurs during the fifth year and lasts for 20 weeks for each student. This includes rotations through various clinical services in hospitals and the pharmacy at *Hôtel-Dieu de France* or other affiliated hospitals. This internship aims to enhance the practical training of students, ensuring a comprehensive integration of the subjects taught throughout their studies, while assigning specific tasks to each student.





## **PROBATIONARY EXAMS**

Written and oral probationary exams assess students' mastery of foundational teachings and their application in pharmacy and clinical biology.

### **Program**

These exams cover the following subjects:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Group: Clinical Biology**

- Clinical Biochemistry
- Hematology + Immunology
- Microbiology + Virology
- Parasitology + Mycology

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Group: Medication**

- Clinical Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Formulation
- Pharmacology
- Toxicology

### **Exam Validation**

Only candidates who have successfully completed the fifth-year final exam are eligible to sit for probationary exams.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students must achieve an overall average in each group, with no failing grades, to pass.

Students who fail must retake all subjects in the group where the overall average is below 50/100 for written exams and below 50/100 for oral exams in the next session.

Passing certain exams may be considered for the second session; however, if students fail, they must retake all exams in the subsequent session.

Passing probationary exams is a prerequisite for defending the thesis and obtaining the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) degree.

