

College of Pharmacy

Background Study Requirement

To allow students to participate in the experiential portion of the PharmD curriculum, the College of Pharmacy is required to have a background study done on each student annually. This includes first-year students as they enter the PharmD program because they participate in an Early Pharmacy Practice Experience (EPPE) with Community Teachers beginning their first semester, and complete an Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) in the summer following the first year. We consider these to be clinical programs for which a background study is required.

Based on amendments to the Vulnerable Adult Act in 1995 and 1996, Minnesota law requires that any person who provides services involving direct contact with patients and residents at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health have a background study conducted by the State. Educational programs are authorized to initiate the background studies on their students as an alternative to each licensed facility requesting the studies. When requested by an educational program, the study is valid for one year and may be provided to clinical sites where you are placed during the coming year.

If you are disqualified from having direct patient contact as a result of the background study and your disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health through a reconsideration process, you may not be accepted for clinical placement at licensed facilities and therefore may not be eligible for the Pharm.D. degree.

Background studies are done by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). The DHS will mail a copy of the background study result to the student (Current Address listed in the U of MN database) and to the Office of Student Services on the student's campus.

- **Students are responsible for initiating their background study through the DHS on an annual basis, and will not be allowed to participate in experiential components of the PharmD program without a successful DHS background study.**
 - More details to follow with exact procedures in May.
- **Students must keep their copy of the background study result, and share with preceptors as needed.**
- **The College is unable to provide clinical sites with background study results.**
 - Students may be required to produce their background study result at clinical sites.
 - Some clinical sites may request that another criminal background check be done through an agency other than the DHS.