

FACULTY OF PHARMACY (FP)

HISTORY

Pharmacy at USJ: Since 1883

Pharmacy studies began at the USJ School of Medicine upon its opening in November 1883, though pharmacy was initially unrecognized, regarded by Reverend Father Clairet as an “essential corollary of 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. After the School of Pharmacy was integrated, the institution was renamed the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, aligning with similar faculties worldwide.

In November 1912, the Faculty relocated to newly built facilities on Damascus Road, within the Medical Sciences Campus, due to space constraints. Initially, admission in 1889 was based on age and educational background, but by 1940, it became contingent on a competitive examination. 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 52-week internship initially completed in the first year was later spread over three summer months at the end of each academic year, with a hospital pharmacy internship added in 1993.
- Theoretical studies extended from three years in 1889 to five years.

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 mixed 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, ETLAM (School of Medical Lab Technicians) 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 Molecular Biology, Laboratory of Microbiology Quality Control, and the Rodolphe Mérieux-Lebanon Laboratory.
- 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 has recognized the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) from Saint Joseph University since 2017. This program requires 360 credits, including ten academic semesters and four summer trimesters.



The program's diverse and multidisciplinary nature 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.

Numerous additional degrees and programs complement the foundational education, including university diplomas, DSS, Master degrees, and PhDs in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences or Nutritional Sciences.

MISSION

For over 120 years, the Faculty has been dedicated to providing a strong academic foundation to help students succeed in their diverse professional fields. It enables them to apply their knowledge with integrity and aims to develop competent specialists who are responsible members of society, characterized by professionalism, ethics, and respect for human values.

The Faculty offers:

- A foundational education that leads to either 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 continually strives to enhance and expand its programs to meet the evolving needs of the profession and address national, regional, and international demands, while emphasizing academic excellence and modern teaching methods.
- A 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.
- Enhanced research activities supported by national and international collaborations, co-supervised theses, and integration of Master and PhD candidates into international research teams.
- A national health service offering diagnostics, expertise, and information.

Clinical internship opportunities at the *Hôtel-Dieu de France* Medical Center in Beirut enhance student training through 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 settings, 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

Dean: Marianne ABI FADEL

Honorary Deans:

Fawaz FAWAZ

Hermine AYDENIAN

Dolla KARAM SARKIS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

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

Lectures: Crystel HAJJAR (EL) FREIJEH, Latifé KARAM KIREJIAN

Practical Trainers: Lucine HALEPIAN OULOJIAN, Marianne ANTAR SOUTOU

Instructors:

Abdo AZAR, Adel RAFFOUL, Adib MOUKARZEL, Aline (EL) HAJJ, André ADAIMÉ, Antoine KARAM, Antoine ZOGHBI 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 CHIBANI (EL), Kamal KALLAB (EL), Karam CHAMOUN, Karim TORBEY, Krystal OUAIJAN KASSATLY, Lara ABDO, Léa ABI NASSIF, Liliane BOUKHDOUD, Lina GHANIMEH, Lina ISKANDAR HAWAT (EL), 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 ZOGHBI, 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 RICHA, Sélim JAMBART, Sima HAMADEH, Tarek ITANI, Zeina AOUN BACHA, Ziad KHOUEIR, Ziad NASSOUR


DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Pharmacy Program:

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate): 360 credits (since 2017-2018), completed over 10 academic semesters and 4 summer terms, including internships in community pharmacy, laboratories, hospitals, and an end-of-study thesis defense (or Practicing Thesis).

Candidates may pursue the following programs:

- Master in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences (120 credits)
- PhD in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences (180 credits post-Master) Specialities:
 - Pathogens and Antimicrobials
 - Clinical Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, and Therapeutic Targets
 - Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacy, and Drug Quality Control
 - Clinical and Experimental Toxicology
- Master in Microbiological Quality Control of Food, Pharmaceuticals, and Cosmetics (120 credits)
- Master in Pharmaceutical Marketing (120 credits)
- Master in Industrial Cosmetics and Dermopharmacy (120 credits)
- Diploma of Specialized Studies in Biological Medicine DSS (holders of the USJ Practicing Doctorate of Pharmacy)



Program duration: 4 years, including one year abroad
- University Diploma:
Clinical, Hospital, and Community Pharmacy (2 semesters)

Nutrition Program:

- Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics (180 credits)
- Master in Nutrition (120 credits)

Concentrations:

Human Nutrition

Sports Nutrition and Physiology

- Master in Food Technology
- PhD in Nutritional Sciences (180 credits post-Master)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Pharmacy: Careers span community, clinical, and hospital pharmacy, 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 roles, quality control, food production, research, and education.

TUITION FEES

164 USD + 3,938,000 L.L.	Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) (360 credits)
71 USD + 1,692,000 L.L.	Master in Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences
71 USD + 1,692,000 L.L.	Master in Pharmaceutical Marketing
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics (180 credits)
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Master in Nutrition
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Master in Nutrition, concentration: Human Nutrition
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Master in Nutrition, concentration: Sports Nutrition and Physiology
113 USD + 2,721,000 L.L.	Master in Food Technology

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

General information

ATTENDANCE MONITORING


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

After approval from the Board, the Dean may excuse justified absences. For an absence of more than two consecutive weeks, students must request the Dean's authorization upon approval from the Faculty Board, under the penalty of being unable to continue the semester.

EXAMS ORGANISATION

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

Courses are taught on a semester basis, resulting in semester exams. Summer trimesters are held during the first four years of the pharmacy program. These summer trimesters primarily include professional internships in community pharmacies and laboratories, classes focused on relevant topics, and role-playing exercises in the pilot pharmacy.



EXAMS PROCEDURES

1st 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 will assess the first part of the course and account for 25% of the final grade.
- A final exam will cover the entire course content 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 the case of a justified absence from a midterm exam, the final exam score and grades from integrated practical work (TP) will constitute 100% of the final grade.

For Practical Teaching

Students are assessed in practical teaching through evaluations conducted during each session, based on their performance in handling tasks, achieving results, and completing written tests related to the practical work and methods used.

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 at least 10/20 or 50/100. If this score is not achieved, students are required to attend a second session for the relevant subjects.

When practical work is part of a specific subject, students must also score at least 10/20 or 50/100 on the 1st or 2nd 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.

Success Conditions

1 - Successful Completion of a Course:

Students successfully pass a course when they achieve a minimum score of 10/20 or 50/100.

2 - Successful Completion of the Semester Program

Students successfully complete the semester program when they achieve a minimum score of 10/20 or 50/100 in each course.

If a student's score is below 10/20 or 50/100 in one or more courses, they must retake the exam in the second session.

Second Exam Session

Students who did 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

Registration for a course may require "prerequisite courses" which are all other courses in a 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 of Grades and Checking the Exam Paper

Upon the validation of exams, all midterm grades for theoretical subjects will be published on each student's personal account on the USJ website. Final results for each student will be made available on their personal account after the exam juries' deliberations.

Students may request, in writing, to view their exam paper within five working days of the posting of grades. In the sole case of a clerical error of omission, addition, or deferral, the grade will be corrected upon the decision of the Head of the institution (article 31 of the USJ Regulations). If no material error exists, instructors may inform students of the mistakes made 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 during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd university years.

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

5th Year of Pharmacy:

The exams for the 5th year of pharmacy consist of five distinct assessments that students must pass to obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing Doctorate) degree:

- Theoretical assessments for the various courses of each semester (final exam without a midterm, accounting for 100% of the validation 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 Teaching

This validation occurs at the end of each subject or group of subjects. All written exams are conducted anonymously. To be declared eligible, candidates must achieve an overall average of 10/20 in each subject.

2. Validation of the Medical Lab Internship:

This validation includes the following assessments:

- Biochemistry
- Bacteriology
- Hematology or Immunology or Parasitology.

To be eligible for the medical lab internship validation exam, candidates must achieve a minimum overall average of 10/20.

The jury may require a candidate who did not pass to complete an additional internship in a medical analysis laboratory in one or more specific domains.

3. Validation of Hospital Pharmacy Clinical Internship

At the end of each rotation, the internship supervisor will post an evaluation grade for the student. This grade considers the following factors:

- Student attendance
- Evaluation by the department head
- Pharmaceutical knowledge
- Research mindset and intellectual curiosity
- Oral presentation of cases and final exam at the end of the rotation
- Motivation and relationship with the medical team
- Internship report submitted at the end of each rotation.

The final evaluation grade for the hospital internship (10/20) will constitute the average of the grades from all rotations completed by the student at HDF or affiliated hospitals.

4. Validation of Community Pharmacy Internship

To qualify for the community pharmacy internship validation exam, the candidate 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, Topic Selection

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.

Formalities for the thesis defense include:

1. Candidates submit a copy of their thesis to the Faculty Secretariat.
2. Based on the Thesis Director's recommendation and in consultation with the peer-review committee, the Dean authorizes the defense and approves the jury composition (the Secretariat provides the necessary form) and the defense date.
The jury must include at least two members with the president being a faculty professor and at least one member a pharmacist from the Faculty of Pharmacy.
3. The defense occurs at least fifteen days after the submission of three copies of the thesis to the Secretariat and the receipt authorization for the defense.
4. Candidates are required to submit three copies of the thesis to the Faculty Secretariat. The Dean appoints the jury members, who receive a copy of the thesis and an evaluation form.
This evaluation assesses bibliographic work, analytical and synthesis skills, personal contribution, and presentation quality.
5. The defense is public and consists of a presentation lasting approximately fifteen minutes, followed by a discussion with the jury members.
6. The jury can either reject the thesis or accept it with one of the following distinctions: "Passing" (10-12/20), "Honorable" (12-14/20), "Very Honorable" (14-16/20), or "Very Honorable Mention with Jury Praises" (over 16/20).
7. The jury prepares a defense report, which is submitted to the Secretariat.
8. Upon acceptance, the Faculty Secretariat issues a provisional certificate to the candidate within five days following the defense. The provisional 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

The pharmacy internship lasts for 20 weeks and must be completed during the non-academic term. It is to be undertaken after the conclusion of the first year and before enrollment in the fourth year. The structure is as follows:

- 1st Year: 7 weeks in a community pharmacy.
- 2nd Year: 8 weeks in a community pharmacy.
- 3rd 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 Syndicate of Biologists.

3. Fifth-Year Internship

- Pharmacy or Industrial Internship

During the fifth year, students are required to 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 are conducted to assess students' understanding of the taught disciplines. These exams require a review of foundational teachings and their application to pharmacy and clinical biology.

Program

These exams cover the following subjects:

1st Group: Clinical Biology

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

2nd Group: Medication

- Clinical Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Formulation
- Pharmacology
- Toxicology

Exams - Validation

Only candidates who have successfully completed the final exam of the fifth year are permitted to take these exams.

Admission Requirements

Candidates must achieve an overall average in each group, with no failing grades, to fulfill the requirements for passing.

Candidates who fail are required to 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 candidates fail, they must retake all exams in the subsequent session.

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

