

MINIMUM PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE MONASH BPHARM(HONS)/MPHARM COURSE

Why are there minimum personal requirements for studying pharmacy at the Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences?

Practicing as a health care professional, such as a pharmacist, requires mastery of both knowledge and skills. It also requires demonstration of attitudes and behaviours consistent with the ethical provision of care to others. We refer to these as the minimum personal requirements for ensuring what is known as preparedness for practice. Preparedness for practice is linked closely to principles of social accountability. This is important because pharmacists are ethically bound not only to provide safe and effective care but also to contribute to the ongoing improvement of individual and societal health.

Who needs to know about the minimum personal requirements?

All students who are entering into the pharmacy course in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences need to know about the minimum personal requirements.

What is covered by the minimum personal requirements?

The minimum personal requirements focus on the standards of professional behaviour and the attributes required for working with people in a variety of *health care settings*. They include the fundamentals necessary to support the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, patients, and others. They build upon and extend some of the topics discussed in the **Respect at Monash** online module which describes what it means to be a respectful member of the Monash community in general.

There are eight key areas described collectively by the Monash health professional courses including the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

- Ethical behaviour
- Behavioural stability
- Awareness of legal requirements
- Communication skills
- Cognition
- Sensory ability
- Strength and mobility
- Sustainable performance

Health professionals are respectful of self, colleagues, and others by exhibiting high standards of personal care and grooming, wearing the appropriate attire, and adhering to policies and procedures. They also need to undergo police checks, working with children checks, and specific immunisations.

The Australian health care context provides service to the population 24 hours per day 7 days a week. This means that health professionals may need to work across a range of times and days, including public and religious observances. Health professionals provide care and service in mixed gender and cultural environments, which also reflects the Australian health care context.

Why are these requirements important?

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences supports the right of all qualified people to enrol in the pharmacy course. Working as an Australian accredited health professional means you have a responsibility to the society for which you are delivering health care. Knowledge of minimum personal requirements helps you to understand what is required to work as an Australian accredited health professional so you can decide whether the course is suitable for you.

What about students who do not meet the minimum personal requirements?

Where there are appropriately documented physical, intellectual, cultural, religious, or other factors affecting a student's ability to participate fully in their course, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is committed to exploring reasonable adjustments to allow students to participate in the course without compromising the academic integrity of the course, their safety, and the safety of others.