

For Senate Labor & Commerce Committee April 3, 2024

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In Washington and in Colorado, the following healthcare professionals have authority to prescribe some or all controlled substances: medical doctor, osteopath, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, dentist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and optometrist.

When it comes to foundational training in these fields, a search of the curricula of local Washington programs for each demonstrates the following:

- ❖ Bastyr University offers a 4-year Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND) program totaling 300 credit hours – 13.5 of which are specifically related to pharmacology.
- ❖ The University of Washington School of Medicine offers a 4-year Medical Doctor (MD) program totaling 288 credit hours. Accredited colleges of podiatric medicine offer a 4-year Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program totaling 173.5 credit hours – 8 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.
- ❖ Pacific University in Oregon offers a 4-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) program totaling 128 credit hours – 5 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.
- ❖ The University of Washington School of Dentistry offers a 4-year DDS program with 1 course that appears to be specifically related to pharmacology.
- ❖ The University of Washington School of Nursing offers a 3- year Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP) program totaling 93 credit hours – 5 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.
- ❖ The University of Washington Physician Assistant (PA) program offers a 2-year program totaling 162 credit hours – 6 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.

Based on publicly available program descriptions, it appears two of these professions require additional training through formal residency post-graduation. Others may have residencies available, but they do not appear to be required for licensure.

Summarized in Chart form here:

Comparison of core program length, total credits, pharmacology-specific credits, and residency requirement.

<i>Program</i>	Program length	Total credits	Pharm-specific credits	Residency required
<i>ND</i>	4 years	300	13.5	No
<i>MD</i>	4 years	288	Unk	Yes
<i>DPM</i>	4 years	173.5	8	Yes
<i>OD</i>	4 years	128	5	No
<i>DDS</i>	4 years	Unk	Unk (1 course)	No
<i>DNP-FNP</i>	3 years	93	5	No
<i>PA</i>	2 years	162	6	No