Skaggs School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

1001 POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Title: Operational Management of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) Doctor of Pharmacy Remote Pathway

APS Number: 1001   **APS Functional Area: Academic and Faculty Affairs**

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Brief Description:	To provide guidance on the structure, function, and organizational oversight for the SSPPS remote Doctor of Pharmacy pathway.
Effective:	August 11, 2024
Approved by:	Dr. Ralph Altiere, Dean
Responsible School Officer:	Associate Dean for Education
Responsible Office:	Office of the Dean
Policy Contact:	Associate Dean for Education
Supersedes:	N/A
Last Reviewed/Updated:	December 12, 2025
Applies to:	Accepted applicants and currently enrolled students in the entry level Pharm.D. (ELPD) program at the SSPPS.

Reason for Policy: To provide details on the structure, function, and organizational oversight for the SSPPS remote Doctor of Pharmacy pathway. This pathway was formally approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in June 2024 following a 3-year pilot phase from 2020-2023.

1) **INTRODUCTION**

The SSPPS has a longstanding history of delivering high-quality pharmacy education. Based on a combination of ongoing program strategic initiatives to increase diversity amongst students, combined with environmental factors affecting the ability to attract adequate numbers of qualified applicants, and the need to serve a population of students eligible to pursue the PharmD degree but cannot do so in the traditional on campus model, there is a need to innovate and pursue opportunities for alternate delivery methods for the existing ELPD program. Offering remote learning has been deemed a more inclusive approach to increasing the opportunity for qualified candidates to enter the ELPD program compared to initiating a new online degree program, satellite campus, or other options.

2) **POLICY STATEMENT**

The remote pathway offers the same curriculum as the on-campus pathway, using the same program outcomes, in compliance with ACPE standards. Students approved may participate in the remote pathway for the first 3 didactic years

of the program. Students may request to switch to the on-campus pathway. Likewise, on-campus students that meet criteria for the remote pathway may request to switch to the remote pathway. Switching is preferred before or after each semester unless extenuating circumstances exist. These requests will be reviewed and considered depending on available capacity and established criteria.

3) **DEFINITIONS**

On-campus pathway: The designation for students enrolled in the ELPD program with expectations for synchronous participation in-person for the entire didactic curriculum.

Remote pathway: The designation for students enrolled in the ELPD program with expectations for synchronous participation via distance-based technologies for the majority of the didactic curriculum, with required on-campus elements.

Learning environment: University-sponsored activities taking place in all educational, clinical practice, and co/extra-curricular activity settings, such as a classroom, lab, clinical experiential site, or co/extra-curricular activity locations.

ACPE: The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. This is the organization that accredits all Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy.

Request to switch: An indication that an ELPD student pharmacist wishes to transition to either the remote or on-campus pathway based on their current designation. The request will be initiated by completing the pathway transition request form.

4) **RELATED PROCEDURES, POLICIES, FORMS, GUIDELINES, AND OTHER RESOURCES**

a) Procedures

  i) Advertising of the remote pathway

   The remote pathway will be advertised as an existing pathway on both the curriculum and admissions sections of the SSPPS website and via our various email, social media, and other advertising campaigns throughout the admissions cycle. This will include information about the program description, curricular elements, admissions criteria, and associated costs. Updates to advertising content and materials will be made in accordance with any changes to the program and will be implemented in a timely manner by the Office of Marketing and Communications. The remote pathway will also be included in the PharmCAS description of our program and will be updated as needed by the SSPPS admissions manager.

  ii) Admissions:

   (1) Admissions Criteria
     (a) Successful completion of the SSPPS admissions process and receipt of an offer of admission.
     (b) Physical location in the continental United States greater than or equal to 40 miles from the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) or location in Alaska, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico. International attendance will not be permitted.

   (2) Admissions process
     (a) Students will undergo the same admissions processes as on-campus pathway students, including PharmCAS application, faculty interview, and holistic review.
     (b) Following successful completion of the SSPPS admissions process and receipt of an offer of admission, applicants will be provided with a supplemental application for participation in the remote pathway (**Appendix I**).
     (c) The supplemental application will be reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) and the Director of Student Success and Wellness (DSSW). Each applicant will have a scheduled videoconferencing call with either the ADSA or the DSSW to discuss expectations for the remote pathway. Based on the supplemental application and the video conference call, the ADSA or DSSW will document any additional relevant information and their

recommendation on the Remote Pathway Applicant Assessment form (**Appendix II**) and will then decide to accept or reject the applicant's supplemental request to participate in the remote pathway. Additional input from the Associate Dean for Education (ADE) may be requested if needed.

(d) The decision of acceptance or rejection into the remote pathway with then be communicated by the admissions manager to the applicant via email.

(e) The total number of students admitted to the remote pathway will not exceed 40% of the incoming P1 ELPD class annually. The number of accepted students admitted to the remote pathway will be monitored by the admissions manager. Should the 40% threshold be met, subsequent accepted applicants interested in the remote pathway may complete the supplemental remote pathway application and admissions process and if eligible will be waitlisted and then allowed to join in the order accepted and if additional spots become available.

(f) Remote pathway students will be held to the same program compliance requirements as on-campus pathway students and will be required to obtain a Colorado intern-pharmacist license.

iii) New student orientation

(a) Students in the remote pathway will be required to attend new student orientation in person and assume the associated costs for travel, food, and lodging. In-person attendance at orientation is a separate requirement and does not count toward the required in-person activity days for the P1 fall curriculum.

iv) Curriculum

The remote pathway students will complete the same ELPD program curriculum as the on-campus pathway, using the same program outcomes and in compliance with ACPE standards.

1. Didactic coursework

(a) Students in the remote pathway will engage in synchronous didactic classes via video conferencing for years 1-3 of the curriculum.

(b) Remote pathway students will have the same computer hardware and software requirements as the on-campus students and will also be required to have adequate internet access and an external webcam.

(c) Students in both the remote and on-campus pathways will have access to all course materials via the learning management system. Remote pathway students will be assigned to a remote pathway section within each course so course directors can easily identify these students.

(d) Remote pathway students will be required to travel to the AMC for up to 10 days each semester for years 1-3 of the program to complete required in-person activities, including select assessments, evaluations, co-curricular activities, and other program requirements. Absences for any mandatory activities during on-campus days will be managed through the SSPPS absence policy and course syllabus expectations. Excused absences for mandatory activities may require additional travel to campus to complete the activity. The required number of days for attendance each semester will be determined by the ADE in collaboration with the course directors and the Office of Student Services (OSS). This will be communicated to students at least 60 days before the start of each semester.

(e) Remote pathway students will be provided with a detailed schedule of the planned activities for the on-campus weeks at least one week before their visit.

(f) If required course materials for practice purposes (e.g., inhalers, insulin pens, etc.) are needed before on-campus visits, these will be mailed to the student from the OSS at no cost. Students are responsible for ensuring their contact information, including mailing address, is up to date within their student portal.

(g) Elective courses: The school will ensure that there are sufficient elective courses available for remote pathway students to take to meet graduation requirements. Elective courses requiring students to be on-campus consistently will not be taken remotely.

2. Co-curricular coursework
   (a) To ensure equity amongst the remote and on-campus pathway students, the co-curricular learning outcomes are the same, and are achieved through almost identical experiences. The faculty Lead for Student Professional Development will be responsible for assigning and scheduling co-curricular activities and will provide opportunities during in-person weeks whenever possible.

3. Experiential coursework

   Students in the remote pathway will have the same timeline and experiences as the on-campus pathway students. The requirements specific to Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) are as follows:
   (a) Students in the remote pathway are responsible for obtaining and maintaining a Colorado pharmacy intern license. Furthermore, students are responsible for obtaining a pharmacy intern license for any out-of-state experience for which they will be claiming experiential credit.
   (b) Community Pharmacy IPPE (an 80-hour block in the summer following the P1 year): Remote pathways students are permitted to complete this experience near their home location, either in Colorado or out-of-state, provided an approved site is available.
   (c) Hospital or health system IPPE (an 80-hour block in the summer following the P2 year): Remote pathways students are required to complete this experience in Colorado.
   (d) Advanced IPPE (aIPPE; 6-week rotation between the P3 fall and spring semesters): Remote pathways students are permitted to complete this experience near their home location, either in Colorado or out-of-state, provided an approved site is available.
   (e) Core APPEs: Students are required to complete core rotations in Colorado. Should a previously vetted and established site exist within the match process outside of Colorado, this could serve as a core rotation.
   (f) Elective APPEs: Remote pathway students will be permitted to complete this experience near their home location, in another state, or internationally.
   (g) If an approved hardship via the process outlined by OEP or accommodation exists that prohibits a student's ability to complete an experiential experience in Colorado, the Office of Experiential Programs (OEP) will work with the student to establish an approved site(s). Failure to successfully establish an approved site may impact a student's progression and on-time graduation. Students will be given the option to waive their approved hardship or accommodation to complete experiences in Colorado.
   (h) In situations where the student is permitted to complete an experiential experience near their home location, the OEP will work with the student to identify and establish approved rotation(s) in their local area. However, should a site not be successfully established, the student will have the opportunity to complete the rotation in Colorado to avoid progression delays. Failure to timely engage in experiential experiences may impact a students' progression and on-time graduation.

4. Extracurricular activities

   Students in the remote pathway will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, including those involving campus and SSPPS-based student organizations. Videoconferencing will be made available for instances where participation virtually is feasible, and students may also participate in person during their required weeks on campus.

5. Student assessment

   Assessments in didactic, co-curricular, and experiential coursework will be designed for students in either pathway to demonstrate competency in an equivalent manner.

6. Switching between the remote pathway and on-campus pathway
   (a) A remote pathway student may request to switch to the on-campus pathway. Switching is permitted before each semester and depends on available capacity. The student must notify the OSS at least two weeks prior to the start of the semester with any requests to switch to the on-campus pathway by completing the pathway transition request form (**Appendix III**). A decision will be communicated to the student prior to the start of the semester.
   (b) An on-campus pathway student who has circumstances that arise that allow them to meet criteria for the remote pathway may request to switch to the remote pathway. Switching is permitted before each semester and depends on available capacity and eligibility. The student must notify the OSS at least two weeks prior to the start of the semester with any requests to switch to the remote pathway by completing the pathway transition request form (**Appendix III**). Requests will be reviewed by the ADSA, the ADE, and the DSSW to determine if the criteria are met. The student will be asked to provide documentation based on the request, and a decision will be communicated to the student prior to the start of the semester.

v) Program Assessment

(1) Given the remote pathway will involve the same curricular content, assessment, and evaluation processes as the on-campus pathway, student performance and achievement of outcomes will occur in the same manner as outlined in our School's Programmatic Evaluation Plan (PEP) and will meet expectations outlined in ACPE standards.

(2) The Assistant Dean of Assessment will be responsible for maintaining the PEP and conducting intermittent assessments of the performance of students in the remote pathway versus the on-campus pathway.

vi) Student support, resources, and policies

Students in the remote pathway will have the same access to student support resources available through both the campus and SSPPS. This includes access to OSS staff, academic support (i.e. tutoring, facilitated group learning, writing center, etc.), access to library resources, and various campus resources available for well-being and financial support. All SSPPS student policies will apply in the same manner to students in the remote pathway.

vii) Program Costs

(1) Costs associated with participation in the remote pathway will be advertised on the AMC and SSPPS websites (https://pharmacy.cuanschutz.edu/degreesandprograms/pharmd/scholarship-tuition-financial-aid and https://pharmacy.cuanschutz.edu/degreesandprograms/pharmd/remote-pharmd#ac-estimated-remote-pathway-costs-1). All applicants will have the ability to engage with the AMC Office of Financial Aid (https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid) and Bursar's Office (https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/billing-payments) as part of the admissions process.
(2) Full-time status is considered greater than 10 credit hours per semester and will be billed as the total annual tuition amount.
(3) Students will be financially responsible for additional travel and lodging requirements incurred during participation in on-campus visits and new student orientation. This will entail flight costs, if applicable, gas/mileage if students choose to drive, lodging, food, personal transportation, and parking. Students will be offered lodging options on or near campus that have AMC negotiated rates, however they will be able to choose their own lodging options that work best for them. Travel for on-campus visits will be scheduled over weekends so as not to interfere will scheduled class time. All students can purchase a reduced RTD (Regional Transportation District) light rail and bus pass to assist with local transportation. A summary of estimated costs is provided in the remote pathway admissions section of the SSPPS website. This is subject to change based on program requirements and costs.

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b) Administrative Policy Statements (APS) and Other Policies
   Student Ethics and Conduct Code
   SSPPS Technical Standards for Admission, Advancement, and Graduation
   SSPPS Scholastic Advancement and Appeals Policy

c) Guidelines
   None

d) Other Resources:
   None

e) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
None

Notes:

1. Date of official enactment and amendments
   June 25, 2024: Approved as first iteration of this policy for implementation beginning Fall 2024 by Executive Committee
   July 1, 2024: Adopted as official policy by the Dean

2. History
   May 31, 2024: Reviewed by Admissions, Assessment, and Curriculum Committees May 31, 2024.
   December 12, 2025: Revised by ADE, ADSA; reviewed at Faculty Senate December 12, 2025.

3. Initial Policy Effective Date
   August 11, 2024

4. Cross reference/appendix
   Policies:
   Student Ethics and Conduct Code
   SSPPS Technical Standards for Admission, Advancement, and Graduation
   SSPPS Scholastic Advancement and Appeals Policy
   Appendices:
   Appendix I. Remote Pathway Supplemental Application (via Formstack)
   Appendix II. Remote Pathway Applicant Assessment Form
   Appendix III. Pathway transition request form

APPENDICES

Appendix I. Remote Pathway Supplemental Application (via Formstack)

First Name:	**Last Name:**
Personal Email:	**Preferred Phone number:**

Mailing address of physical location that you will be participating from:
City: **State:**

I have read the remote pathway description, criteria, and requirements provided.

☐   **Yes**

Please briefly explain why you wish to participate in the remote pathway.

Please provide any additional information you feel would be helpful for us to know (optional)

Appendix II. Remote Pathway Applicant Assessment Form

Date of Video Conference Call: **Applicant Name:** **Assessor:**	
The remote pathway requirements were reviewed with the applicant.	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Comments:**
The candidate meets the requirements for participation in the remote pathway	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Comments:**
Any additional applicant questions were answered	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Comments:**

Appendix III. Pathway transition request form

First Name:	**Last Name:**
Email:	**Preferred Phone number:**
Current Graduation Year:	

Mailing address of physical location that you will be participating from:
City: **State:**

Transition Request (Please check one)

☐   **I am requesting to switch from on-campus status to the remote pathway.**

☐   **I am requesting to switch from the remote pathway to on-campus status.**

Please briefly explain the basis for your request

Please provide any additional information you feel would be helpful for us to know (optional)