

USC School of Pharmacy

International Center for Regulatory Science

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN THE THRIVING FIELD OF REGULATORY SCIENCE?

The USC International Center for Regulatory Science offers Doctorate, Masters and Certificate level programs – as well as single classes.

Career Paths

Graduates of the USC School of Pharmacy's Regulatory Science programs are well prepared for leadership roles in the Pharmaceutical/Biotech industry including:

- Regulatory Specialists
- Formulation Engineers
- GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) Experts
- Quality Assurance Team Leader
- Reimbursement Specialists
- Medical Writers
- Clinical Research Associates and Scientists

Please review articles about careers in Regulatory Science at [Science](#) and [Nature](#).

USC Regulatory Science and Drug Development graduates are in great demand among top industry employers. Our graduates are now employed in industry, government, consulting and academia. Our alumni are now leaders in a profession designed to meet industry and governmental challenges in speeding up the delivery of medical advances to the people who need them, while ensuring that safety standards are met. The biomedical industry has grown rapidly, and this has fueled a large—and largely unmet—demand for regulatory professionals, both nationally and internationally. Our programs are uniquely designed to produce graduates who can meet this growing need for a new generation of regulatory scientists, formulation engineers, GMP experts and reimbursement specialists.

Program Overview

The University of Southern California's Regulatory Science Program offers Master's, Certificate and Doctoral programs in Los Angeles and by distance. Full and part-time students can expand their knowledge of regulatory affairs, clinical research and quality systems. Our goal is to develop regulatory science leaders in industry, government and academia. Individual courses can also be taken without enrollment in a certificate or degree program. Classes are offered on weekends to serve working professionals.

Programs

WITH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Embarking on a new program of study is a big step, especially for those who have been out of school for many years. We understand your hesitation, and want help you to choose wisely, whether you decide to take a single course or a larger program of study. Our capable staff can help to develop a personalized program that will best serve your needs. Our students appreciate the flexibility that comes with courses that are offered on-site, by distance, or a blend that works for you.

You can take a single course

Unsure about whether you are ready for a graduate program? Need to brush up on only one topic? For qualified students it is easy to enroll for a single course, whether on-site or on-line. You do not need to be formally enrolled in a graduate program. We can typically enroll you up to two weeks before the course starts by simply filling out a form. Often, students considering certificate or MS programs take a course or two to “try us out,” before committing to a graduate degree or certification program. All of these units can then be used later if you choose to go on to a graduate program here or elsewhere.

You can earn a certificate

Our [certificates](#) are designed to increase your knowledge in certain areas key to medical product development. About four courses in length, each certificate can stand alone as a true graduate endpoint, or can be rolled forward after completion into the MS or doctoral program.

You can earn an MS degree

The Masters of Science is a significant milestone in your career development that ensures a comprehensive overview of regulatory tools and thinking. Course concentrations in [Regulatory Science](#), [Medical Product Quality](#) and the [Management of Drug Development](#) are available. Your MS program will be unique for you, with the flexibility to do at your pace and wherever you may live.

You can earn a Doctorate of Regulatory Science

The [DRSc program](#) allows participants with strong industry experience and demonstrated academic performance to complete specialized high level studies focused on policy, research methods and global strategy. Often the program that follows an MS for students with superior aptitude, it can also be entered without MS background, with additional coursework as part of the mix of experiences.

What is Regulatory Science?

Regulatory Science relates the regulatory and legal requirements of biomedical product development to the scientific research needed to ensure the safety and efficacy of those products. It is an emerging profession experiencing tremendous growth. The rapid expansion of the biomedical industry has resulted in a particularly large and unmet demand for regulatory professionals. The Master of Science in Regulatory Science is an intensive, interdisciplinary program within the School of Pharmacy designed to produce graduates

whose backgrounds in biological, pharmaceutical, and biomedical sciences are enhanced by the knowledge and skills needed to manage regulated biomedical products. You can also read an FDA article [Why You Should Care About Regulatory Science](#).

What is included in the graduate level curriculum?

Our curriculum provides a unique combination of in-class training and industry experience. The program offers six graduate certificate programs (12 units each), three Masters degrees (32 and 36 units), and the Doctor of Regulatory Science degree (64 units). Core courses cover six areas: regulation of foods and medical products, quality assurance, clinical research, statistics, law, and business. Students are able to transfer credits from graduate work that they have done in the past towards their degree. Other credits can be taken from a list of our optional courses or from any area of interest relevant to regulatory science; these alternative courses must be approved.

Am I eligible to apply to the program?

The Regulatory Science program is designed for participants with strong science or industry backgrounds. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed previous graduate study in science, engineering or business, although students with particularly strong undergraduate transcripts and leadership qualities will also be considered for admission.

Can I take a course or two before applying to see if the program is right for me?

Prospective students may opt to enroll in a course or two as a limited student (“visiting” student) prior to applying/being accepted to our program. This is a unique opportunity which allows potential applicants to see if they would like to pursue a future certificate, MS, or DRSc degree in Regulatory Science. Limited enrolled students should be aware that they are only allowed to take up to 12 units before applying and being admitted to the program.

Can I work while earning my Regulatory Science degree at the same time?

The majority of our students work either part-time, full-time or as an intern. Our program offers students a professional advantage by having courses primarily on Fridays, Saturdays, and/or Sundays; occasionally courses will be held on the weekdays. Each course usually meets for a total of five days from 9:00am-5:00pm; the schedule varies from term to term. With this distinctive course set-up, most of our students are able to work and earn their degree simultaneously.

How long will it typically take to earn a degree in Regulatory Science?

The time period to earn a degree depends on the individual and the degree program. The Regulatory Science program works to accommodate students within reason given the university’s administrative requirements.

Certificate: The 12 unit program can be completed in two to four semesters.

Master of Science: On average, most students complete their degree in two years or less, but three years may be needed if students take a single course each term.

Doctorate: On average, the program can be completed in four to five years with the final year devoted to research and writing the dissertation.

Do you have distance learning courses available in your program?

Those who study with us by distance attend the same classes as students onsite and participate in group projects with their fellow students. The classes can be viewed in real time or on delay. In all respects, distance students pursue the same program as those onsite. We have successfully offered our distance program to people all over the US for more than 10 years.

Do you offer a dual degree program with Regulatory Science?

The School of Pharmacy offers an innovative dual degree program for MS students currently enrolled in PharmD studies at USC. In this dual program, twelve credits of coursework in the PharmD program are counted toward the requirements for the MS in Regulatory Science, which greatly shortens the coursework component. Students wishing to take the dual program should identify their interests early, because the program is best started at the end of the first or second year of studies.

Courses

A BREADTH OF COURSES FOR ALL INTERESTS

Regulatory Science includes a broad array of subjects. Whether you want to brush up on basic science principles, focus on a particular product area, or diversify your knowledge base, we would love to help you with your planning. Please review our [Course Descriptions](#).

Admissions Criteria

Certificate Admissions Criteria:

1. Baccalaureate or graduate degree in an appropriate discipline. Applicants should have a minimum grade point average of 3.0.
2. Proficiency with the English language and excellent communication skills. (M.S. international applicants should have a minimum TOEFL score of 100)
3. Two letters of reference.
4. One page letter statement of purpose (ie. "Why do you want to take the degree in Regulatory Science?", "What attributes do you have that distinguish you as a good candidate for our program?")

MS Admissions Criteria:

All requirements listed for Certificate plus GRE with scores of 144 Quantitative, 153 Verbal.

DRSc Admissions Criteria:

All requirements listed for Certificate plus one additional reference letter and typically a minimum of 10 years of industry experience and a current position as Senior Manager or Vice President.

We're happy to talk with you to discuss your goals or help you select courses.

For more information visit regulatory.usc.edu

Contact us at regsci@usc.edu or call 323-442-3521.

We look forward to hearing from you!