

Student Pharmacy Education Center (SPEC) Syllabus

The University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy

Hours: Monday-Thursdays 12pm-1pm & 4pm-5pm, Fridays 12pm-3pm; Location: Campbell 201, 205, & ____
(Saturdays and Sundays 9am-12pm available virtually for select topics)

1. Program Overview

The SPEC Tutoring Program is a faculty and peer-led academic support service offered through the UTEP School of Pharmacy. SPEC pairs PharmD students with trained peer tutors to reinforce classroom learning, strengthen study strategies, and support student success across the professional pharmacy curriculum.

SPEC is designed to supplement — not replace — faculty instruction. Sessions are collaborative, student-driven, and focused on active learning and student growth.

2. Mission Statement

To provide equitable, accessible, and high-quality academic support that helps every student pharmacist build the knowledge, confidence, and study skills needed to succeed in the PharmD curriculum

3. Program Goals & Learning Objectives

By participating in SPEC, students will be able to:

1. Identify and apply effective study strategies suited to pharmacy coursework (e.g., active recall, spaced repetition, case-based reasoning).
2. Strengthen foundational and applied knowledge in high-difficulty courses (Medicinal Chemistry, Calculations, Integrated Systems-Based Pharmacotherapy).
3. Develop clinical reasoning skills through case-based peer discussion.
4. Improve exam preparation and test-taking strategies specific to pharmacy-style assessments (NAPLEX-style, patient case, calculation-based).
5. Build self-directed learning habits and academic resilience.
6. Access a supportive peer network throughout the didactic curriculum.

4. Program Structure

Component	Description
Format	One-on-one tutoring by request
Frequency	Weekly 60 min sessions are available for various subjects
Duration	Full academic semester (16 weeks)
Delivery	Primarily in-person. Virtually available for select subjects.
Cost	Free to all enrolled PharmD students
Enrollment	Rolling sign-up via the SPEC portal

5. Subject Areas Covered

- **P1 (First Professional Year)**
 - Medicinal Chemistry
 - Pharmaceutical Calculations
 - Other Foundational Sciences
- **P2 (Second Professional Year)**
 - Physiology and Pathophysiology
 - Pharmacology
 - Pharmacotherapy
- **P3 (Third Professional Year)**
 - Physiology and Pathophysiology
 - Pharmacology
 - Pharmacotherapy

Note: Specific topics covered are aligned with current student needs and may be adjusted.

7. Tutor Qualifications & Training

- Earned a **B or higher** in the course(s) they tutor.
- Faculty/Advisor references.
- Completion of a mandatory **Tutor Training Workshop** covering:
 - Blooms Taxonomy
 - Learning styles and note taking strategies
 - Critical thinking and socio-emotional learning
 - Managing difficult situations
 - Academic integrity guidelines and referral protocols
- Ongoing check-ins and communication.

8. Student Expectations

Participants are expected to:

- Attend sessions punctually and come prepared (review relevant notes and slides).
- Actively engage in their learning and growth — SPEC is not a passive lecture replacement.
- Complete any pre- or post-session practice problems assigned by the tutor.
- Provide session feedback via the end-of-session survey.
- Maintain professionalism and academic integrity.

11. Academic Integrity Policy

All SPEC sessions abide by the School of Pharmacy's Honor Code. Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Sharing or requesting current-semester exam questions or answers.
- Using SPEC sessions to complete graded assignments on behalf of a student.
- Treating tutors or students in an unprofessional manner.

Violations are reported to the Office of Student Affairs per institutional policy.

12. How to Enroll

1. Log in to the SPEC Portal (found in the “Current Students” tab of the School of Pharmacy’s website).
2. Select desired course and session time for 1-on-1 tutoring.
3. Provide a brief description of student’s challenges and priorities for tutoring session.
 - * Students will receive confirmation of appointment and instructions via email.

13. Program Contacts

Role	Contact
SPEC Program Coordinators • Ian Mendez (Medicinal Chemistry) • Andriana Radenovic (Pharmaceutical Calculations) • Harleen Singh (Integrated Systems-Based Pharmacotherapy)	iamendez2@utep.edu ardenovic@utep.edu hsingh3@utep.edu
Office of Student Affairs • Carmen Ramos • Sara Smith	crtorres2@utep.edu scrigo@utep.edu

This syllabus is subject to revision at the discretion of the SPEC Program Coordinators and the Office of Student Affairs. Students will be notified of any changes via the SPEC portal.