

WSU College of Pharmacy
499 Special Problems and 599 Special Projects

What is the difference between a 499 and a 599 project?

Here are the definitions from the WSU catalog:

499 Special Problems: Independent study conducted under the jurisdiction of an approving faculty member; may include independent research studies in technical or specialized problems; selection and analysis of specified readings; development of a creative project; or field experiences.

599 Special Projects: Laboratory research, clinical research, or comprehensive review of selected subjects

Therefore, if a student is working on a specific research project with you a 599 designation is the most appropriate. If the student is working on more of an independent study, the 499 designation is more appropriate. *Linda Kildew in student services can help if there are questions regarding the appropriateness of a 599 or 499 designation.*

How much time should 499 or 599 courses require from students?

These are both considered courses and therefore fall under the University's guidance on time commitment for courses. Both 499 and 599 fall under the category of independent study, which is a minimum of 3 hours per week for each credit hour (or minimum 45 hours per credit per semester). The total time per week can vary between the 499 and 599 because of the number of semester credits can be different between these, as noted below:

- 499 allows for variable credit between 1 and 4 credits per *semester*, so 499 will require 3 to 12 hours per week as appropriate for the credit assigned (minimum 3 hours per week for each credit or minimum 45 hours per credit per semester). A student can repeat a 499 but can take a maximum of 12 *cumulative* credits of 499.
- 599 is set at 2 credits per *semester* (not a variable credit) so this should require a minimum of 6 hours per week (3 hours per week per credit) or a minimum of 90 hours per semester. Please note that the catalog states a student can take a maximum of 10 *cumulative* 599 credits. Since this is set at 2 credits per semester, students can complete a semester 599 course a maximum of 5 times.
- For both 499 and 599 the time can be completed in a flexible manner if needed so that it does not have to be the same amount of time each week. However, the student should be aware of time expectations, and the total time for the semester should reflect the credit expectations noted above.
- Please note that students who may plan to work with faculty for more than one semester and who may spend a semester doing literature review prior to starting the actual project should use the 499 credit for literature review so that 2 semesters of 599 can be utilized, if needed, for the actual research project.

As a quick reminder, students are required to take 10 elective credits in a minimum of 4 courses. Both 499 and 599 fulfill elective credits. However, a student still must take 4 elective *courses* even if high

WSU College of Pharmacy
499 Special Problems and 599 Special Projects

credit courses such as a 4-credit 499 might allow her/him to meet the 10-credit minimum with fewer than 4 courses.

How does a student register for a 499 or 599 with a faculty member?

If a faculty member agrees to be the instructor for a 499 or 599, that faculty member must contact Linda Kildew in Student Services (lkildew@wsu.edu). Linda will then enroll the student in the 499 or 599 course. Students are not able to register online for a 499 or 599, and faculty members are required to make the contact with Linda rather than the student so that there is no question that the faculty member has agreed to be the instructor.

Maximum number of credits overall and per semester

Faculty and students sometimes have questions regarding the maximum number of elective credits a student can take in case students wanted to take more electives than required. PharmD students can take a maximum of 143 credits and still be able to obtain financial aid for all credits without further appeal.

The pharmacy curriculum requires 134 credits (this total includes the required elective credits). This leaves room for 9 additional elective credits ($143 - 134 = 9$) if no courses need to be repeated. However, students should be aware that part of that room is left for the possibility for them to take an additional elective APPE rotation in the 4th year. Each APPE rotation is 5 credits, so a student who anticipates taking an additional APPE elective rotation (*this would be for a 7th rotation*) in the 4th year would have 4 additional classroom elective credits available beyond the required 10 credits. *As a reminder, additional elective APPE rotations are not appropriate to be counted for the 10 required elective credits students must obtain in the PY1-PY3 years. Students must meet the 10 elective course requirements prior to starting rotations. Additional elective APPE rotations are designed for students who wish to gain additional clinical experience beyond what is required in the program.*

Pharmacy students are not capped on the number of credits they can take in a given semester, and they will not be charged additional tuition if they exceed 18 credits per semester.