

# The Training Site

The Birmingham VA Medical Center is a progressive teaching facility accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and affiliated with the UAB School of Medicine, Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy, and Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy. It serves as a referral center for Alabama and surrounding states to provide acute tertiary medical and surgical care, as well as numerous medical specialties, including the Safe Harbor Palliative Care Inpatient unit, Neurology, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, and Home Based Primary Care. The extensive ambulatory care program covers over 50 general and specialty clinics, including pharmacist-run clinics. The pharmacy department is staffed by over 70 professionals to provide unit dose medications, IV admixtures, TPN, chemotherapy, and comprehensive clinical pharmacy services to both inpatients and over 55,000 outpatients who are currently enrolled in Primary Care at the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

## Residency Training Program

The pharmacy practice residency at the Birmingham VA Medical Center offers comprehensive training with an emphasis on clinical pharmaceutical care and primary care. Pharmacy residents will be directly involved in patient care, as well as pharmacy operations. Residents will also have ongoing teaching responsibilities to pharmacy students and hospital staff. Pharmacy residents advance their knowledge and skills to become competent clinical practitioners through training in the following rotations:

### Required Rotations

- **Orientation** (required one month)
- **Acute Patient Care**
  - General Medicine (required two months)
  - Critical Care/Medicine Specialty (required one month)  
MICU/CCU  
SICU/CVICU
- **Ambulatory Patient Care**
  - Primary Care (required two months)
    - Includes Coumadin Clinic and Medication Management Clinic
  - Home Health Anticoagulation Program (longitudinal)
  - Home Based Primary Care (longitudinal)
- **Additional Responsibilities**

In addition, several ongoing activities throughout the year require resident participation and responsibilities to contribute toward resident development. These include:

  - Research project
    - Background preparation, protocol, design, data collection and analysis
    - Presentation at Southeastern Residency Conference (SERC)
    - Manuscript submission to a professional journal
  - Journal Club - participation & presentation
  - Adverse Drug Event reporting
  - Formulary Management
  - Medication error reporting
  - Assigned management projects or tasks
  - Teaching opportunities
- **Practice Management** (required one month)
- **Drug Information** (longitudinal)
- **Service Commitment**
  - Staffing: Twenty (20) hours per month
  - Clinical staffing: Sixteen (16) hours per quarter
- **Electives** (required four, one month rotations):

Infectious Diseases	Cardiology
Palliative Care	Geriatrics
Psychiatry	Long term care
Neurology	Nutrition

Repeats of acute care or primary care rotation
- Drug monographs
- Case presentations
- Contribution to the quarterly Pharmacy newsletter
- Nursing inservice



# Birmingham City Life

While the greater Birmingham area boasts a population of over one million people, the feel of Southern hospitality and charm abounds. World-famous dining, local boutiques, and plentiful shopping surround the downtown Birmingham area. The downtown area itself is rich with civil landmarks, historic churches, and beautiful parks. Birmingham houses multiple attractions for lovers of arts and science, including the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Alabama Ballet, the McWane Science Center, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and the Birmingham Zoo. Nestled in the heart of football country, the sunny climate allows for outdoor enjoyment not only during football season, but year-round. In addition, a convenient drive to both beaches and mountains, affordable housing close to the VA, and ethnic diversity all make Birmingham a great city to live in.



## Benefits

- Salary: \$ 42,944 + pharmacist salary for staffing hours (pending annual approval)
- Health/Life Insurance
- Administrative leave and support to attend ASHP Midyear clinical meeting and Southeastern Residency Conference (SERC)
- Thirteen days annual leave
- Thirteen days sick leave
- Ten paid federal holidays

## Application Procedure

### Qualifications

Applicants must possess a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from an accredited school or college of pharmacy, or a B.S. or M.S. degree and equivalent training or experience. They must also be eligible for license to practice pharmacy in any state, and have completed a professional curriculum that includes significant clinical clerkship experience.

### Requirements:

Applicants must provide the following in order to be considered for the residency program:

- VA application form (found on the website)
- Curriculum vitae
- Three letters of recommendation (including recommendation form found on website)
- Official college of pharmacy transcripts
- Letter of intent, including career goals and objectives for seeking a residency

### Procedure: Applications must be submitted via PHORCAS.

Interviews will be scheduled on evaluation of the application. Applicants will be ranked for selection based on qualifications and a personal interview. Two positions are available beginning no later than July 1.

Address all inquiries to:

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