



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE GROUP

RESIDENCY YEAR 2007-2008

VA Health Care System

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest integrated health care provider in the United States. Through its investments in people, cutting-edge technology and research, VA leads the health care field. With 600 health care facilities throughout the country, VA treats more than half a million veterans on an inpatient basis and manages nearly 40 million outpatients each year.

VA Pharmacy Residency Programs

VA Pharmacy Residency Program is the largest training program for advanced clinical pharmacy training in the country. VA trains approximately 333 residents annually in 83 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited residencies. The training includes a variety of practice areas, such as: Pharmacy Practice, Specialty Residencies (e.g. Geriatrics, Ambulatory Care, Infectious Disease, Psychiatry, Intensive Care, etc.) and Research. VA also funds the advanced training of Pharmacy Fellows.

Unique Benefits of a VA Residency

- An outstanding 12 month (July 1- June 30) clinical patient care experience serving a challenging and rewarding veteran population
- A stimulating interdisciplinary environment where residents learn to coordinate quality primary care with other health care services to maximize patient care outcomes, that enhance the resident's learning experience
- Research and academic opportunities mentored by experienced pharmacist providers
- Competitive annual salary
- Authorized absence for approved continuing education, in addition to vacation, national holidays, and sick days
- Health and Life Insurance plans available

Comments from Former VA Residents

Clinically Challenging

- “My preceptors took many steps to ensure excellent quality of care for our patients while maximizing my exposure to a clinical environment. The training was very well organized which made my clinical experiences much more valuable. I became interested in clinical pharmacy because of my experience there, and I hope that the program will continue for future for pharmacy students.”
- “The VA provided me with an excellent learning environment. There is a good mixture of practical clinical experience and didactic learning experiences at the VA. I was also given the opportunity to participate in original research.”
- “I truly enjoyed my experience at the VA. I feel that the amount I have learned is unbelievable and I feel much better prepared to be a clinical pharmacist on my own after this experience. I feel the preceptors are all very knowledgeable and truly care for their residents.”

Quality of Mentorship

- “I was here for two months, each month with a different preceptor that specialized in a different area of pharmacy. Both months were excellent learning experiences and I enjoyed my time here.”
- “I enjoyed working at the VA. My preceptor and other staff members were very encouraging and challenging.”
- “I am pleased with the VA Residency program. I would never imagined learning so much in so little time. I would do my residency over again, without a doubt.”
- I found the VA faculty and staff to be both very professional and very attentive. Most people at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) be they faculty, staff, or patients seemed very receptive to students and helped facilitate learning. I will truly value the experiences and training I received at VAMC.”
- “I feel I have been treated fairly and the environment and morale here at is a conducive site for residents to learn and grow. The faculty has been supportive mentors, not only through their teaching capacity, but also professionally and personally.”
- “Fantastic Residency Program. I gained a lot of confidence through the program and was given autonomy with patient care. The preceptors and faculty are all excellent to work with.”
- “The preceptors at the site where I received my training were excellent. They were very intelligent, motivated and willing to let the student move at their own pace. I very much enjoyed this rotation and have recommended this rotation to other students.”
- “The patient care aspects of this residency position are beyond the compare. The patients here are a pleasure to treat and show the appreciation again and again. There are often small changes that can be made to make a big

difference; the first step is choosing which small step is the most important.”

- “I now realize how valuable the service provided is to the patients that it serves. I am fortunate to have gotten to observe/work to see how VA works.”
- “Serving the patient at the VA was very rewarding. I felt I was making a difference.”
- “As a veteran myself, I am proud and honored to serve those that served their country as I had in the recent past.”
- This is my second VA residency and each has been a wonderful experience that has cemented my desire to work only in the VA system. I would recommend VA residencies to anyone interested in clinical pharmacy.”
- “It was a great experience. As a result of this training I have taken a job at a VA facility in Birmingham, AL. I hope to continue my career in the VA healthcare system indefinitely.”

VA Technology

- “The most appreciative thing I can say about the VA is the computerized system of notes, orders, and labs. This makes clinical work a lot easier to perform with each component readily available from CPRS (Clinical Patient Record System).”
- “The computer system was great. It is great to be able to access someone’s information when you are not on their particular floor.”

VA Pharmacy Residents play a vital role in helping Department of Veterans Affairs keep the promise to those who have served by delivering quality health care. You too can become a vital team member of one of the largest health care systems in the country! See what VA can offer you at: <http://www1.va.gov/vajobs/> _

or
contact one of our Residency Coordinators for specifics about their programs.
Let them help you find the best “match” in VA!

For more information on the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) residency matching program go to:
<http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/reglink.htm>