



Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center Pharmacy Service

1970 Roanoke Boulevard (119)

Salem, VA 24153-6404

Phone: (540) 982-2463 ext 2341 Fax: (540) 855-3478

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

Background:

In an effort to meet the change in emphasis from inpatient to outpatient health care, the federal government allocated monies to qualified Veterans Affairs Medical Centers across the country to initiate the Prime Program in the early 1990's. This program expanded residency programs in the area of Primary Care for various disciplines, including pharmacy. The model espoused an interdisciplinary team approach to provide a unique educational experience for all. The mission of the Prime program was to enhance the health care delivery system offered to eligible veterans. The Salem VAMC was one of the sites competitively selected for the Prime Program and was funded by this source for ten years.

More recently, pharmacy residencies have been funded by the Office of Academic Affiliations. Training Programs are a significant resource to the VA that helps to address the education mission of the Veterans Health Administration. These training programs **meet or exceed standards mandated by accrediting agencies, such as the American Society Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)**, and adhere to the VA's goal of providing patient-focused interprofessional education and training. Team members are able to learn from each other and share care tasks within the boundaries of their professional scopes of practice. The residency program offered is **PGY1 Pharmacy Residency. Our program areas of strength are in Primary/Ambulatory Care, Critical Care, and Psychiatry.**

Purpose of the PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency Program:

A PGY1 residency program provides the opportunity to accelerate growth beyond entry-level professional competence in patient-centered care, pharmacy operational services, and to further the development of leadership skills. The residency year provides a fertile environment for accelerating growth beyond entry-level professional competence through supervised practice under the guidance of model practitioners. Specifically, residents will be held responsible and accountable for acquiring these outcome competencies: managing and improving the medication-use process; providing evidence-based, patient-centered medication therapy management with interdisciplinary teams; exercising leadership and practice management; demonstrating project management skills; providing medication and practice-related education/training; and utilizing medical informatics.

Graduates from the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the Salem VA Medical Center will be prepared to either obtain a position as a clinical or clinical/staff pharmacist or to continue their training via a PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in their desired area of interest or specialty

Residents will meet the required goals and objectives in a manner specified by the **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)** to accomplish these outcomes.

Facilities:

The Salem VA Medical Center is a 298 bed medical center with tertiary care in psychiatry, as well as a comprehensive array of specialties including medicine, surgery, geriatrics, and women's health. Primary Care Teams and a variety of specialty clinics provide continuity of care for outpatients.

The Salem VAMC also has Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Danville, Tazewell, Lynchburg, Wytheville and Staunton. Our Extended Care program encompasses a 90-bed Community Living Center and Geriatric Evaluation Management program.

Our facility is affiliated with the University of Virginia, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.



Salem VA Medical Center / PGY1 Pharmacy Residency

Residency Program Description:

Two (2) residency positions are available for this PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency. The candidates shall be U.S. citizens and a graduate of an accredited college of pharmacy; a Doctor of Pharmacy degree is required. The applicant shall be licensed within 60 days of the beginning of the program. Our residency program shall commence on July 1 and complete on June 30 of the following year. This residency is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since 1994.



Practice Areas of Emphasis:

The residency experience will emphasize three areas: Clinical Practice, Teaching, and Research.

Clinical Practice:

Required learning experiences focusing on patient care include: adult internal medicine, geriatrics, critical care, psychiatry, and ambulatory/primary care. Longitudinal experiences are comprised of drug information, practice management, staffing/service and other clinic-based opportunities as they become available or dependent upon resident's interest. Our selective/elective learning opportunities include infectious diseases, cardiology, surgery, oncology, geriatrics, and home-based primary care (HBPC).

Teaching:

Opportunities include continuing education presentations to pharmacy staff, newsletter articles, continuing education presentation to Primary Care interdisciplinary team members, journal clubs, and precepting pharmacy students from the **Virginia Commonwealth University, Shenandoah University, and Appalachian College of Pharmacy.**

Research:

Projects may include either Drug Usage Evaluation (DUE) / Medical Usage Evaluation (MUE); Quality assurance/improvement; development/improvement of a clinical service; retrospective chart reviews, or other ideas may be presented for discussion. The major project will include both a written report [in accepted manuscript format] and oral presentations to the Pharmacy Department and at the Eastern States Regional Residency Conference.

Benefits:

- Residency stipend: \$41,098 per annum
- Licensure in any state
- Breakfast and Lunch allowance (Monday – Friday)
- Unlimited fitness center access
- Free parking
- 13 days of sick leave/13 days of annual leave (vacation) – earned on an accrual basis
- Off on ALL Federal Holidays
- Paid Intermittent Pharmacist /Staffing Opportunity
- Health insurance available (must start on June 28th)





Location:

Our facility is located in **Salem, Virginia**, which is nestled in the Roanoke Valley between the beautiful Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. This area has many recreational, cultural, and entertainment attractions. For example, Smith Mountain Lake, a 25,000-acre man-made lake is only 30 miles away. The surrounding mountains provide excellent camping, hiking, and sightseeing opportunities. The **City of Roanoke**, which is located adjacent to Salem, is home to the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and brings together various cultural activities such as the Historic Roanoke City Market, the Science Museum of Western Virginia, the O. Winston Link Transportation Museum, and the Taubman Museum of Art.

Recreational and Outdoor Activities:

There are endless recreational opportunities in Salem/Roanoke area. The Salem Bike Route is an 11.2 mile round trip course designed for all ages and skill levels. If hiking is an interest, the Appalachian Trail offers unparalleled opportunities to explore, experience, and connect with nature. The Blue Ridge Parkway incorporates several recreation areas, camp grounds, picnic areas, trails, restaurants, and other facilities. The Roanoke River Greenway is a popular place for walking, jogging, and biking through downtown Roanoke and along the river.

Several of the area parks offer various activities, attractions, and festivals throughout the warmer months. For example, Elmwood Park in Downtown Roanoke hosts the annual “Festival in the Park”, which serves as a showcase for the best, newest and brightest talent in our region.

Mill Mountain is home to a local favorite – the famous Roanoke Star. Built in 1949, it stands eighty-eight and a half feet tall and is considered the world’s largest man made illuminated star. The animal lovers can enjoy spending time at the Mill Mountain Zoo, which is home to 160 animals representing 46 species.

The James E. Taliaferro Sports and Entertainment Complex consists of three major sports venues. The Salem Civic Center Coliseum hosts many events including the NCAA Division III basketball championship. The Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the NCAA Division III football championship, is held at Salem Football Stadium annually. Salem is the home of the Avalanche baseball team—a class A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Lastly, there are many public golf courses, as well as a driving range located less than a mile from the Salem VA Medical Center.

Entertainment/Dining:

The surrounding area boasts many exciting options for dining and entertainment. Downtown Roanoke offers a variety of dining opportunities – ranging from causal to formal – to accommodate every possible palate and some offer nightlife activities as well. The Roanoke Civic Center provides a venue for everything from professional sporting events to musical concerts to traveling Broadway shows. The Jefferson Center is a home for community culture and performing arts serving Virginia's Blue Ridge with concerts, dance parties, exhibitions, lectures, artist residencies and educational programs.

Top 10 Reasons to Love & Live in Salem, Virginia:

10. Small population – 24,825
9. Low Cost of living – 13.47% lower than national average
8. Just minutes from Metro Roanoke area
7. Scenic mountain views
6. Endless recreational opportunities
5. Median home price - \$259,900
4. Short commute times to work and play
3. Safe living community with a low crime rate
2. Quick drive to Blacksburg – Home of the Virginia Tech Hokies
1. Salem VAMC-A fabulous place to enhance your pharmacy knowledge and skills within a multitude of practice areas!



Application Process:

Due Date: January 7th

Eligibility: Applicants must be US Citizens

Requirements for Acceptance:

All interested candidates should submit the following components:

- ✓ Completed Veterans Affairs [Application for Associated Health Professions \(VA Form 10-2850c\)](#)
- ✓ Completed [Declaration for Federal Employment \(VA Form 306\)](#)
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae
- ✓ Letter of Intent
- ✓ Academic transcripts (from Pharmacy and Pre-Pharmacy Studies)
- ✓ Three (3) letters of recommendation
 - Recommendation Letters may be sent via e-mail if not using PhORCAS

How to Submit:

- ✓ PhORCAS – Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service
 - Upload all required application documents
- ✓ Traditional US Mail:
 - See Contact information below

Formal Interview:

- Candidates will be contacted for a formal on-site interview
- Interview process includes a 20 minute encore presentation with accompanying handout materials.

Selection:

- Residency selection is made through the ASHP Resident Matching Program ("The Match"), which is administered on behalf of ASHP by the [National Matching Services, Inc.](#)
- **National Matching Service Code:** 187613

Contact Information:

Heather McKee, CPhT

Pharmacy Residency Administrative Coordinator
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
1970 Roanoke Boulevard (119)
Salem, VA 24153-6404
Phone: (540) 982-2463, ext. 2341
Fax: (540) 855-3478
Email: Heather.McKee2@va.gov

Autumn A. Alvarez, PharmD, BCPS

PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
1970 Roanoke Boulevard (119)
Salem, VA 24153-6404
Phone: (540) 982-2463, ext. 1641
Fax: (540) 855-3478
Email: Autumn.Alvarez@va.gov