

# WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS AFFAIRS: PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY FAQs

Common Questions... Asked & Answered!

**1** Q: Can you tell me about your program, including how many applicants will be accepted in your upcoming class?

A: The Washington D.C. Veterans Affairs PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency program is a 12-month curriculum that provides residents with extensive training opportunities in ambulatory care and acute inpatient care. The residency program is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and begins approximately in the last week of June. Two PGY-1 Pharmacy applicants will be accepted into our program.

**2** Q: What makes your program unique? What are a few advantages of working at a Veterans Affairs Medical Center?

A: Being a Veterans Affairs Medical Center, we have the unique opportunity to give back to our nation's veterans. Located in the nation's capital, we cater to a diverse population of veterans from various ethnicities, races and cultural backgrounds. Our pharmacy staff is a reflection of this as we pride ourselves with being a diverse and inclusive work group. Our program allows residents to specialize in a specific practice area and participate in unique research projects.

Being a resident at a VA medical center affords you the unique opportunity to interact and network with residents throughout the system. You will have the opportunity to work with clinical pharmacy specialists with a scope of practice which allows them to independently see patients, prescribe and change medications, as well as order labs within the scope of the clinic. Additionally, since most veterans' medications are filled within the VA/Department of Defense, pharmacists can easily complete medication reconciliations for our veterans, then move on to clinically optimizing care.

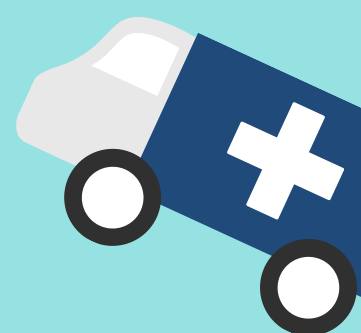
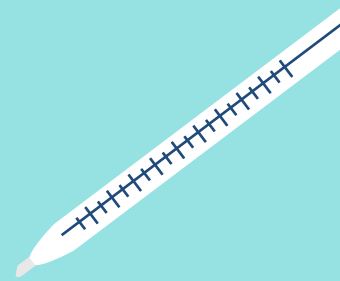
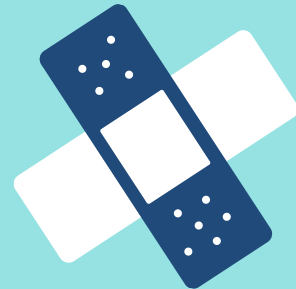
**3** Q: How has your program adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure rotation experiences were maximized?

A: Many precautions have been put in place to ensure the safety of our staff and veterans. The use of telehealth services, including telephone visits and VA Video Connect (VVC), have been offered in place of face to face visits to ensure veterans still have access to care. For face to face encounters and inpatient rotations, our residents are given proper personal protective equipment to ensure they are protected throughout their rotations.

Worried about communication with your clinical team? No need! Residents, preceptors, and other health care providers also use virtual meetings for clinical topic discussions, presentations, and patient-centered discussion.

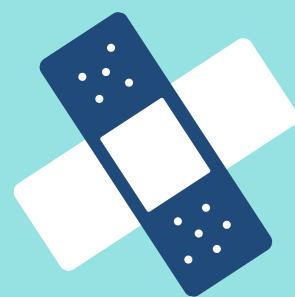
**4** Q: Is remote access to clinical resources and intranet available for residents in order to retrieve info/data outside duty hours?

A: Residents will be granted access to connect to a virtual desktop from their personal computers. They will be able to access to the DC VAMC intranet, including the VA library service which has subscriptions to many databases and medical journals.



**5****Q: What rotations are required to complete your program? What is the length of each rotation?**

A: Residents are required to complete a minimum of 5 weeks in the following areas: anticoagulation, internal medicine, Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) primary care. These mandatory learning experiences may be extended up to 12 weeks. Elective rotations can range from 4 to 12 weeks in length. Schedules are flexible and can even be split up if necessary. The RPD will work with residents to update and modify their rotation schedules as needed throughout the year.

**6****Q: Do you have a mentorship program?**

A: Each resident has the opportunity to be paired with a preceptor who can provide individualized guidance both professionally and personally throughout the year. Mentors serve in an informal capacity to help residents in various areas, ranging from residency projects and practice site issues, advice on career choices, and maintaining a work-life balance.

**7****Q: Do residents have parking privileges? Is the facility easily accessible through public transportation?**

A: Residents can either register for a free parking pass to access the secure employee parking lots or opt into a monthly Metro stipend to use in the nation's capital public transportation system (bus and subway). Our facility is easily accessible from the Red and Green subway lines with free shuttles that run frequently to and from the Metro stations.

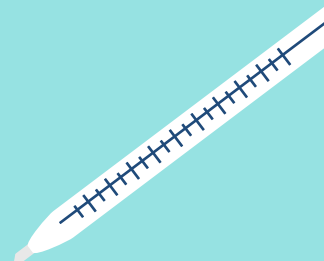
**8****Q: Are teaching opportunities available for residents? Is a teaching certificate available and/or required?**

A: During the residency year, residents have the opportunity to pursue a teaching certificate through The Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WHMSP). The certification program provides residents an opportunity to enhance teaching skills through practical training and actual hands on teaching experience both in the university setting as well as the clinical practice setting. Graduates of the program should be able to design and implement educational programs within the classroom and clinical practice environment.

Potential teaching opportunities include continuing education (CE) classes, serving as co-preceptors to APPE students, leading a weekly clinical conference, and teaching academic classes at regional pharmacy schools.

**9****Q: What are the staffing requirements? How many weekends are you required to work every month?**

A: In general, the staffing requirement is two eight-hour shifts per month along with one major and two minor holidays during the residency year. Where these two eight-hour shifts fall (i.e. weekday or weekend) is based on previous resident feedback and may be modified from year to year.

**10****Q: What are the requirements to apply? What is needed for the application?**

A: Candidates must possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy and have U.S. citizenship. It is strongly encouraged for residents be licensed by the beginning of October (in any US state) regardless of extensions provided by ASHP to maximize their rotation experiences.

Applicants interested in the program are required to submit the following materials through the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PHORCAS™) by the beginning of January. Please refer to the PHORCAS™ website for specific dates. You will need to upload your curriculum vitae (CV), official school transcripts, 3 letters of recommendation submitted in PhORCAS™, and letter of intent.

