

PGY-2 Specialty Residency:

Psychiatric Pharmacy



The primary purpose of the Psychiatric Specialty Residency is to provide training to become a psychiatric clinical pharmacist practitioner. The resident will develop clinical skills in the areas of Integrated Care (IC), Outpatient Mental Health, Inpatient Mental Health, and Substance Use Disorders while treating the veteran population. Residents provide patient care as members of interdisciplinary teams. They assume responsibility for the care of patients and take an active, direct role in patient care. In addition, they write progress notes for patients, they assess and are granted prescribing authority under scope of practice agreement. Residents also have the ability order laboratory and other diagnostic tests, consult other services when indicated, and develop therapeutic monitoring plans for patient follow-up.

The program has been accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since 2009, according to the ASHP Accreditation Standards for PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residencies.

PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Residency Application

Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmacy Education accredited School of Pharmacy with a Pharm.D. degree, must be a U.S. citizen, and participate in an interview. They must also have completed or currently be enrolled in a PGY-1 residency or an equivalent experience. COVID-19 vaccination is required (or an exemption along with regular COVID-19 testing) for employment in the VA. Applicants must have an aptitude and motivation for mental health patient care. Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills, the ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, interest in the program, confidence, and maturity.

Pharmacists interested in applying for this residency program are required to complete their application through PhORCAS and include the below attachments:

- Submit a personal letter of intent
- Submit (3) PhORCAS References
- Submit a copy of their curriculum vitae
- Submit an official copy of their pharmacy transcript(s)
- Submit [VA form 10-2850D](#) (Application for Health Professions Trainees)

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

At the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, we are committed to fostering and sustaining an environment which celebrates diversity, provides equitable opportunities for employment and promotion, and supports inclusiveness in pharmacy culture. We embrace our differences as individuals and unite as a pharmacy team toward a common goal: to deliver optimal, patient-centered care for our nation's Veterans.

"I enjoyed learning from many skilled preceptors in this residency. The variety of experiences helped prepare me for clinical practice as a psychiatric pharmacy practitioner"

- Former PGY-2 Resident

See ASHP website for application deadlines.

Address inquiries to:

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Pharmacy Residency Learning Experiences

Rotation Descriptions

Integrated Care (IC)

Residents will have a core rotation focusing on the delivery of IC services as a member of an interdisciplinary team. The IC service is located in the primary care West Annex clinic which is affiliated with the William S. Middleton VA. Residents will have the opportunity to serve as a member of an interprofessional training team consisting of psychiatry residents, pharmacy residents, and psychology interns. Residents also participate in an interactive weekly seminar focusing on the treatment of mental health disorders within primary care, motivational interviewing, and professional development. They also have the opportunity to complete IC and harm reduction projects.

Outpatient Mental Health Care

During the mental health ambulatory care experience, residents will be given responsibility for direct patient care, progressively increasing toward independence at a pace determined by both the resident and preceptors. Residents will learn how to develop rapport, prioritize delivery of patient centered care, effectively triage ambulatory care patients, collect and analyze patient information, and document patient care activities. They will implement drug therapy and monitoring plans and provide counseling to effectively implement the plan. Residents will provide evidence-based, patient-centered treatment for chronic mental illness in all degrees of complexity. Residents will have the opportunity to work with a variety of pharmacist and psychiatrist preceptors in this setting which helps to model different patient interviewing styles. Residents also rotate through the geropsych clinic, where they learn about assessment tools and treatments in veterans of advanced age, and a pain focused experience.

Inpatient Psychiatry

For the inpatient experience, the residents will serve as members of the interdisciplinary team, working with other trainees including psychiatry residents, medical students, and pharmacy students. Residents will work with both psychiatrist and pharmacist preceptors to provide comprehensive inpatient care to a small panel of patients (usually 2-3 at a time) including, patient assessment, treatment planning, and order entry through scope of practice, and medication reconciliation. Residents will also facilitate a medication education group on the inpatient unit. Additionally, residents will participate in Treatment Refractory Major Depression (TRMD) Clinic which assesses patients for appropriateness for ketamine, ECT, TMS or medication changes.

Substance Use Disorders

Residents will provide ambulatory medication management services with an outpatient prescriber for patients with substance use disorders including relapse prevention medications. Residents care for veterans in the buprenorphine clinic and tobacco treatment program. Residents have the opportunity to work with interdisciplinary preceptors to facilitate a variety of SUD focused experiences which may include Contingency Management, Biology of Substance Use Disorders group, and Seeking Safety group. Residents participate in a Naloxone Stand-down event at least annually.

Residency Research Project

Completion of a residency project is required. Residents work with a pharmacy or psychiatry staff mentors to plan, carry out, and evaluate the results of these projects. Projects are typically presented at the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists Annual Meeting in April of each year and the Wisconsin Pharmacy Residency Conference. The inverted research model is utilized to facilitate earlier project completion and presentation at ASHP midyear if desired.

Other Experiences

Additional opportunities exist in community support program, epilepsy, pain, sleep clinic, home based primary care, leadership, and neurology. The residency is affiliated with the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. Teaching opportunities exist at UW-Madison in the pharmacotherapy lab, pharmacotherapy lecture, and mental health elective. Residents can receive academic appointments as clinical instructors. Residents will participate in mental health journal club, and will have opportunities to attend learning experiences through the VA and UW. Residents can attend the ASHP Midyear Conference as well as the CPNP (College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists) annual meeting.