



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program – FAQs

1. When was the pharmacy residency program at James A. Haley Developed?

PGY-1 Program: 1976

PGY-2 Ambulatory Care: 1990

PGY-2 Infectious Diseases: 2000

2. What makes your program unique? What are a few advantages of working at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital?

JAHVH has a newly built level 1 poly-trauma center, a spinal cord injury (SCI) unit, a community living center (CLC) and a domiciliary. Our New Bed Tower opened in August 2023, which provides state of the art care for our admitted veterans. We are affiliated with the University of South Florida College of Medicine & Pharmacy and provide training for over 400 health professionals. This relationship allows for many interdisciplinary interactions, including rounding and transitions of care. There are opportunities to rotate in primary care and internal medicine as well as specialties including surgery, psychiatry, critical care, spinal cord injury, oncology, geriatrics and extended care. We also have 6 off-site outpatient clinics (CBOCs and OPCs) across West- Central Florida allowing for unique ambulatory care opportunities! JAHVH is one of the top 10 VA hospitals in the nation in terms of inpatient bed numbers.

3. Do you have a mentorship program?

Residents are matched with a mentor prior to starting residency based on interests, career goals, and overall compatibility. Mentors will assist the resident in achieving both short- and long-term residency goals and objectives. They provide guidance and support to the resident throughout the year. The assigned mentor will provide feedback to the resident on projects and presentations when needed to maximize their residency experience. Each PGY-1 resident will be assigned a mentor. Mentors are also available to the PGY-2 residents.

4. How and how often are residents evaluated?

The resident's overall progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the residency program will be evaluated and set at the beginning of the residency year. The resident, RPD and mentor will then meet at least quarterly to update the resident's specific plan and progress throughout the year.

For every rotation block, residents are required to submit an evaluation of their progression in that specific area which is completed within PharmAcademic. These evaluations happen at the midpoint and final of each rotation and are based on criteria from ASHP. Additional formative ("on demand") evaluations can be assigned as needed based on preceptor/resident request or if additional opportunities for evaluation and/or improvement are needed.

5. Do residents get to work with pharmacy students (teaching, mentoring, etc.)?

Yes! Residents are required to conduct two Resident/Student Teaching Sessions throughout the year. Residents typically choose a topic and then conduct an hour-long presentation/review with current students. Additionally, there may be some overlap with residents and students on particular rotations where they will get additional teaching opportunities with APPE students.

6. What kind of teaching opportunities are available?

Every PGY-1 and PGY-2 resident will provide one ACPE-accredited CE presentation during the year. Additionally, residents are required to conduct student teaching sessions (2 sessions for PGY-1 residents and 1 session for PGY-2 residents) for current APPE students on rotation at JAHVH.

Each PGY-1 resident will present two journal clubs.

A teaching certificate is offered to PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents via University of South Florida College of Pharmacy. It is a year-long program and is optional for residents to participate. If a resident decides to pursue teaching certificate, the expense will not be covered by the residency program as it is optional.

7. Where are your former residents practicing now?

The JAHVH residency programs follow the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists standard for pharmacy practice residencies, and as a result, established a strong foundation of clinical practice that can be applied in various professional and clinical settings.

Many of our former residents are hired on at the end of their residency year and are current employees within the VA system, serving as preceptors to the PGY-1 program and other clinical services. We have had many residents go on to pursue PGY-2 residencies – this includes residencies both within the VA system as well as at outside hospital facilities. Our recent PGY-2 resident graduates have pursued positions to include (but not limited to) Ambulatory Care, Pain and Palliative Care, Cardiology, Data & Health Outcomes, Infectious Diseases, and academic positions throughout the country.

8. How many applicants will be accepted into each residency class?

Total of 7 pharmacy residents (five PGY-1 residents, one PGY-2 Ambulatory Care resident, and one PGY-2 Infectious Diseases resident) will be selected for a 12-months curriculum that provides residents with widespread training opportunities.

9. Are residents required to work on holidays?

No, residents are off on all federal holidays.

10. What are the staffing requirements?

PGY-1 residents will have two staffing phases. During Phase 1 (Mid July – Mid October), PGY-1 residents will be required to staff one full weekend (8 hours on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday) every other weekend. When transitioned in Phase 2 (October – End of Residency Year), PGY-1 residents will staff one full weekend every 3rd weekend.

PGY-2 residents will staff two 8-hour shifts every 4th weekend, starting October in both the outpatient and inpatient pharmacies.

Staffing responsibilities include operational and clinical duties at inpatient and/or outpatient pharmacy. This includes unit dose order verification, medication delivery, weekend clinical duties, and/or IV room experience. Residents will not be compensated for this staffing requirement.

11. Is moonlighting permitted for residents?

The program provides the moonlighting (also known as 'Dual Appointment' within the VA) opportunity to residents which is a fantastic way to become confident in staffing abilities with the benefit of payment for those extra hours.

For a resident to moonlight, there must be a demand for extra coverage and the resident's request must be approved by the RPD in advance. Residents must adhere to the ASHP policy while moonlighting.

12. Is remote access to clinical resources and the intranet available for residents to work from home? Do residents have library privileges?

Yes, the VA provides remote access by accommodating residents with PIV card readers and government issued laptops and monitors upon request. Remote access to clinical resources is available through the VA medical library Athens Open Access. Resources include UpToDate, Micromedex, Access Pharmacy, and more. The medical library also has a helpful and knowledgeable librarian available to help with research needs.

Physical access to the library is now available on-site. Our library is located on the 2nd floor of the main hospital with physical books, extra computers/workspace and librarian assistance when needed.

13. What are some of the benefits offered by JAHVH's pharmacy residency program?

Each resident will receive 11 paid federal holidays off, 13 paid vacation days, 13 paid sick days, paid time off to attend state/national meetings, licensing, and certification exams. Additionally, healthcare insurance will be offered at a competitive premium rate.

14. Where will I find affordable housing during my residency year at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital?

An apartment list is prepared and sent to incoming residents once they are accepted into the program to assist with finding affordable and convenient housing.

15. What is there to do in Tampa area?

Tampa is a flourishing city! No matter what your interest is, there is something here for everyone. Tampa is home to some of the best restaurants, bars, and beaches!

Busch Gardens is one of our local theme parks, which has thrilling roller coasters for those who seek adventure. If you love professional sports, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning and the Tampa Bay Rays, plus plenty of others, are around to cheer on when you have a day off!