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PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM





PGY1 RESIDENCY IN PHARMACY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GREATER LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Introduction



The Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is among the largest VA medical centers in the nation. It provides a full spectrum of acute and long term inpatient and ambulatory care to approximately 1.4 million veterans residing in the primary service area of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Kern Counties, covering 20,000 square miles. The VAGLAHS consists of one tertiary care facility, two ambulatory care centers, and eight community based outpatient clinics. VAGLAHS is affiliated with both UCLA School of Medicine and USC School of Medicine, as well as more than 45 colleges, universities, and vocational schools in 17 different health care related programs.

The West Los Angeles Healthcare Center (WLA) is a tertiary care teaching facility dedicated to providing a wide array of acute and ambulatory patient care services to our nation's veterans. The comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services provided include a broad range of medical, surgical, and psychiatric care. Internal medicine subspecialties include cardiology, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, allergy, pulmonology, nephrology,

endocrinology, rheumatology, and hematology/oncology. Major surgical subspecialties include orthopedics, urology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, plastics, ENT, podiatry, and cardiothoracic surgery. In addition to the main acute care hospital, there is a 180-bed nursing home, a hospice unit, Home-Based Primary Care, and a 300+ bed State Home.

The *Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (SACC)* offers a state-of-the-art ambulatory care facility. The center has specialty outpatient programs in spinal cord injury, stroke rehabilitation, women's health, preventative medicine, dentistry, and mental health. Extended care activities include a 120-bed nursing home and a Home-Based Primary Care Program. The facility hosts extensive clinical and basic science research, including Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and Field Program for Health Science Research and Development (HSR&D). The HSR&D program evaluates provider practice and patient outcome studies in the delivery of ambulatory health care.



The *Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center (LAACC)* is located in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. It serves as a centrally located facility for the diverse veteran population of the city of Los Angeles, focusing on primary care and mental health services. The clinic provides special services in post-traumatic stress disorder, day treatment, and mental health services.



General Information

The PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy at VAGLAHS was first established in 1952 and is considered one of the first postgraduate pharmacy programs in the nation. In 1963, it was one of the first pharmacy residency programs accredited by ASHP. It is a twelve-month long program that offers a diverse hospital-based residency experience with emphasis on clinical pharmacy activities. This residency is structured to offer the resident a well-rounded clinical experience in acute care and ambulatory care, as well as pharmacy administration.

Pharmacists completing this residency will be competent and confident practitioners in multiple patient-care environments. They will demonstrate competence by appropriately utilizing their clinical knowledge and skills, with the ultimate goal of possessing the ability to apply these skills to a variety of situations. They will develop confidence through the feedback and independence offered to them through each of their experiences. These pharmacists will be accountable for achieving optimal drug therapy outcomes as members of the healthcare team. They will also refine their skills in educating other healthcare professionals and patients on drug-related topics.

Rotations offered through the residency provide experiences in acute care medicine, cardiology, GI/hepatology, geriatrics, infectious diseases, long term care, critical care, neurology, oncology, pharmacy benefits management, drug information, ambulatory care, psychiatry, surgery/TPN as well as opportunities in pharmacy research, quality assurance, and departmental administration. Experiences for select elective rotations are offered at other divisions within VAGLAHS, including SACC and LAACC. Focused areas of study are available in Acute Care, Ambulatory Care, Geriatrics, and Neurology.

VAGLAHS has established academic affiliations with various local schools of pharmacy including USC, UCSF, UOP, Western University, and Loma Linda University. Residents also have ongoing teaching responsibilities for pharmacy students and other trainees, as well as hospital staff. The PGY1 Residency in Pharmacy at VAGLAHS is affiliated with the USC School of Pharmacy and offers residents the option of a teaching certificate and appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the USC School of Pharmacy.



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Program Description

VAGLAHS PGY1 Pharmacy Residents must successfully complete 8 six-week rotations. The 4 required rotations include acute care medicine, ambulatory care, critical care, and pharmacy benefits management. Residents may select 4 electives which can include rotations at either SACC or LAACC.

Program Components	Description
Rotation Selections <i>(Required rotations indicated in bold)</i>	Acute Care Medicine Pharmacy Benefits Management Ambulatory Care at one of the following sites WLA Campus SACC Campus LAACC Campus Cardiology (CCU) or Critical Care (MICU) or Surgical ICU (SICU)/TPN Gastroenterology/Hepatology Geriatrics, WLA Geriatrics, SACC Infectious Diseases Neurology Oncology Psychiatry
Areas of Focused Studies <i>(Not to exceed 4 months)</i>	Acute Care Ambulatory Care Geriatrics Neurology
Staffing Requirements	Residents are required to function as an inpatient pharmacist and cover the pharmacokinetic monitoring service for 1 day every weekend for 3 rotations of the year (total 18 weekend days). During ambulatory care rotation(s), residents will assist in reviewing and finishing computerized prescriptions.
Residency Research Project	Residents are required to complete a research project suitable for presentation at a regional conference. Residents are also required to complete and submit a manuscript for publication and prepare a poster presentation of their research project.
Teaching Responsibilities	Residents will have the opportunity to precept APPE pharmacy students (Level IV), as well as IPPE pharmacy students (Level I/II/III), pharmacy interns, and pre-pharmacy students. Residents also have the option of a joint academic appointment with the USC School of Pharmacy which offers opportunities to teach and lecture to Level II and Level III PharmD students. Residents are provided the opportunity to participate in various scheduled coursework and seminars developed to enhance the residency experience. Those residents participating in this affiliation will receive faculty appointment and earn a teaching certificate from the university. A separate interview with USC may be required for this affiliation. Residents interested in the affiliation are also required to have an active California license.



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Area of Focus: Acute Care

General Information

The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) offers a distinctive experience in the area of acute care. All acute care rotations take place at the West Los Angeles (WLA) campus. Acute care rotations offered include general medicine (GMED), medical intensive care unit (MICU), cardiac care unit (CCU), and surgical intensive care unit (SICU)/total parenteral nutrition (TPN).

Preceptors involved with each rotation are specially trained, many having completed post-doctorate residencies and obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy.

In these rotations, residents will work closely with clinical pharmacists. Residents will also round with providers and ancillary services as an active member of the healthcare team. Residents will regularly review medication profiles for appropriateness of therapy, evaluate laboratory tests as they relate to drug therapy, obtain complete medication histories to

detect adverse drug events, drug interactions, allergies, and other untoward drug related effects, recommend alternatives to prescribed drug regimens when appropriate with an expected endpoint of achieving optimal therapy, provide drug information services, and provide patient education.

As pertinent to each rotation, residents will have opportunities to perform pharmacokinetic dosing and heparin monitoring, review ICU sedation and paralytic protocols, monitor pressors, initiate/adjust TPN, and perform medication reconciliation on admission and discharge.

A focused area of study in acute care is available for residents interested in receiving additional training in this specialty. This can be achieved by completing the core acute care requirements and two additional ICU rotations. Core acute care requirements are accomplished by completing GMED and one ICU rotation in MICU, CCU, or SICU.

Practice Experience

General Medicine (GMED):

Primary Preceptors: Joy Park, PharmD, Sung (Christa) Son, PharmD, BCPS, Jennifer-Oanh Vu, PharmD, BCPS

Commonly encountered and monitored disease states:

- Respiratory Disorders: COPD/asthma, PE, DVT
- Infectious Diseases: pneumonia, sepsis, UTI, OM, endocarditis, septic arthritis, meningitis
- Cardiovascular Disorders: HTN, CHF, AFib, dyslipidemia
- Neurological Disorders: pain, dementia, stroke, psychiatric disorders
- Endocrine Disorders: DM
- Gastrointestinal Disorders: GERD, PUD, pancreatitis
- Genitourinary Disorders: acute/chronic renal failure, ESRD, electrolyte abnormalities, BPH

Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU):

Primary Preceptor: Catherine Paiste, Pharm.D.

Commonly encountered and monitored disease states:

- Respiratory Disorders: COPD/asthma, ARDS, PE
- Infectious Diseases: pneumonia, sepsis
- Cardiovascular Disorders: pressors, cardiogenic shock
- Neurological Disorders: ICU sedation, paralytics, seizures
- Endocrine Disorders: DKA, thyroid crisis
- Gastrointestinal Disorders: UGIB, hepatitis
- Renal Disorders: ESRD on HD/CRRT



Cardiac Care Unit (CCU):

Primary Preceptors: Amy Cangemi, PharmD, Maria Longo, Pharm.D., BCPS

Commonly encountered and monitored disease states:

- Infectious Diseases: endocarditis, sepsis
- Cardiovascular Disorders: ACS (unstable angina, NSTEMI/STEMI, PCI), CAD, CHF/cardiomyopathy, AFib/RVR, AVR/MVR, arrhythmias, pulmonary hypertension, pressor support, hyperlipidemia
- Renal Disorders: electrolyte abnormalities

Surgical Intensive Care Unit/Total Parenteral Nutrition (SICU/TPN):

Primary Preceptor: Claire Hwang, Pharm.D.

Commonly encountered and monitored disease states:

- Respiratory Disorders: ARDS
- Infectious Diseases: pneumonia, sepsis, UTI
- Cardiovascular Disorders: Post-CABG/AVR/MVR care, cardiogenic shock, pressor support
- Neurological Disorders: ICU sedation, paralytics, seizures, post-craniotomy/laminectomy
- Gastrointestinal Disorders: SBO/ileus post-operative complications
- Endocrine Disorders: parathyroidectomy, DM
- Renal Disorders: ESRD on HD/CRRT, electrolyte abnormalities
- Genitourinary Disorders: radical prostatectomy
- Musculoskeletal Disorders: THA, TKA, ORIF
- Nutrition: Parenteral nutrition, re-feeding syndrome, TF



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Area of Focus: Ambulatory Care

General Information

The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) offers a distinctive experience in the area of ambulatory care. The three campuses, located in West Los Angeles, Downtown Los Angeles, and North Hills, provide a wide variety of exposure to the different clinics and training environments unique to each of the sites.

Preceptors involved at each site are specially trained, many having completed post-doctorate residencies and obtained advanced certifications.

In these rotations, residents will work with clinical pharmacists in our primary care and sub-specialty clinics, participating as integral members of a multidisciplinary team. Residents will regularly review medication profiles for appropriateness of therapy, evaluate laboratory tests as they relate to drug therapy, obtain complete medication histories to detect adverse drug events, drug interactions, allergies, and other untoward drug related effects, recommend alternatives to prescribed drug regimens when appropriate with an expected

endpoint of achieving optimal therapy, provide drug information services, and provide patient education.

Residents will provide care in our Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT), the VA-coined patient centered medical home model of care, as well as in other sub-specialty clinics providing comprehensive medication management services. Residents will also be involved in the pharmacist-run anticoagulation clinics. Opportunities to provide care through innovative modalities, such as Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT), are also available. Various opportunities to provide patient and staff education exists at all practice sites.

A focused area of study in ambulatory care is available for residents interested in receiving additional training in this specialty. This can be achieved by selecting the ambulatory care rotation offered at each of the three campuses. This unique opportunity provides the resident an array of practice settings and experiences specific to each of the three sites.

Practice Experience

West Los Angeles Healthcare Center (WLA):

Primary Preceptor: Kathy Lee, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE

WLA is located at the Healthcare Center campus, providing comprehensive ambulatory care services to veterans. The center offers numerous subspecialty clinics in addition to primary care services.

- Residents may participate in the following clinics/activities:
- Anticoagulation Clinic
 - PACT Clinic
 - Infectious Disease Clinic
 - GI/Hepatitis C Clinic
 - Cardiology Clinic
 - DM/Endocrinology Clinic
 - Pulmonary Clinic
 - Renal/Hypertension Clinic
 - Neurology Clinic
 - Pain Clinic
 - Diabetes Medication Class
 - DM Med Titration Clinic

Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center (LAACC):

Primary Preceptor: Thien-thanh Nguyen, Pharm.D.

LAACC is a free standing ambulatory care facility located in the downtown Los Angeles area. It has served as a model for ambulatory care service in the VA system.

- Residents may participate in the following clinics/activities:
- Anticoagulation Clinic
 - PACT Clinic
 - ID/HIV Clinic
 - Smoking Cessation Clinic
 - Lithium/Clozapine Clinic
 - Parkinson's Support Group
 - Diabetes Meter Training
 - Brown Bag Day
 - Clinical Staff Education
 - Follow-up Clinic

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (SACC):

Primary Preceptor: Seung Goe, Pharm.D., BCPS

SACC is a multidisciplinary teaching facility in cooperation with the UCLA School of Medicine and Olive View Hospital. The clinic is located in the San Fernando Valley, 25 miles from downtown Los Angeles.

- Residents may participate in the following clinics/activities:
- Anticoagulation Clinic
 - PACT Clinic
 - Cardiology Clinic
 - Endocrinology Clinic
 - Neurology Clinic
 - Renal Clinic
 - Rheumatology Clinic
 - Pulmonary Clinic
 - Diabetes Class
 - Hypertension Class
 - Healthy Heart Class
 - Brown Bag Day
 - DM Med Titration Clinic





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Area of Focus: Geriatrics

General Information

The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) offers a distinctive experience in the area of geriatrics. WLA and SACC provide a wide spectrum of experiences from acute care to ambulatory care in geriatrics. Each site offers residents the opportunity to learn skills necessary for a multidisciplinary team approach to geriatric patient care. As part of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) and the UCLA Multicampus Division of Geriatric Medicine, the residents are a part of a well respected and long established training program in geriatrics. Nationally and internationally recognized physicians and researchers in the field of geriatrics provide a didactic base and clinical training

Practice Experience

West Los Angeles Healthcare Center (WLA):

Primary Preceptor: Marian Rofail, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP

The clinical training model at WLA incorporates an interdisciplinary team approach to the planning and care of elderly patients. The primary responsibility of the resident is to review, assess, and monitor pharmacotherapy for geriatric patients in the various clinical settings described below.

Inpatient Experiences

- **Acute Geriatric Medicine (AGT):** This unit is an acute care unit where the focus is geriatric assessment. An interdisciplinary team of professionals and trainees from other disciplines, including geriatric medicine fellows, provide care and participate in daily rounds and weekly meetings and lectures.
- **Community Living Center (CLC):** This unit provides care for veterans who require skilled nursing care. The residents will gain experience in monthly medication reviews, quality assurance, discharge counseling, and pharmacokinetic consultations.

Ambulatory Care Experiences

- **Geriatric GRECC Primary Care Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to experience the practice of ambulatory care in the geriatric population. Resident responsibilities include: participating in pharmacist-run hypertension clinic, interviewing assigned patients, assessing medication regimens and medication adherence, writing progress notes in patients' charts, and discussing drug therapy recommendations with the interdisciplinary team.

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (SACC):

Primary Preceptor: Kristie Tu, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP

The clinical training model offered at SACC provides a well-balanced experience that allows residents to gain clinical insight and practical experiences in the interdisciplinary team approach to inpatient geriatric care. The resident will participate in geriatric pharmacist-run clinics, where the



model, incorporating an inter-disciplinary team approach to the planning and care of elderly patients.

Preceptors involved at each site are specially trained in geriatrics and have advanced certifications in this specialty.

A focused area of study in geriatrics is available for residents interested in receiving additional training in this specialty. This can be achieved by selecting the geriatric rotation offered at both WLA and SACC. This unique opportunity provides a comprehensive experience in the area of geriatrics.

pharmacist plays an integral role in implementing, adjusting, and monitoring drug therapy.

Inpatient Experiences

- **Community Living Center (CLC):** Residents will be responsible for monitoring drug therapy, providing anticoagulation, antimicrobial, and pharmacokinetic dosing consults to physicians and allied healthcare professionals. As members of the geriatric medical team, residents will actively participate in interdisciplinary team meetings and medical rounds and serve as the drug therapy specialist, as well as the pharmacy educator.
- **Hospice Care Unit:** In this state of the art 14-bed hospice care unit, the resident will have the opportunity to round as an active member of the interdisciplinary palliative/hospice team where they are responsible for monitoring drug therapy. They will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiences in pain management, patient-controlled analgesia (PCA), and end of life symptom management.

Ambulatory Care Experiences

- **Geriatric Primary Care Clinic:** In this three half-day pharmacist-run clinic, residents will have opportunities to perform pertinent physical assessments/basic cognitive function tests, assess/initiate/adjust medication regimens, as well as order and follow up on laboratory test results under attending physician/pharmacist supervision. Resident responsibilities in the clinics also include: reviewing medication profiles for drug interactions, appropriate dosing, evaluating therapy duplication, possible medication-induced side effects, and assessing compliance and possible barriers to compliance.
- **Center for Ambulatory, Rehabilitation and Education (CARE):** In this rehab clinic, residents will have opportunities to provide group, as well as individual, patient education sessions to veterans. Residents will be responsible for evaluating patient medication regimens and serve as a drug therapy specialist to the interdisciplinary CARE team.



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Area of Focus: Neurology

General Information

The VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) offers a distinctive experience in the area of neurology that is unique to this program. The facility was one of five VAs granted designation as an Epilepsy Center of Excellence and the only VA identifying a clinical pharmacist in the model of care. The facility is involved in cutting edge research, education, and clinical care and features state of the art equipment.

West Los Angeles Healthcare Center provides a balanced experience of acute care and ambulatory care in neurology.

Practice Experience

West Los Angeles Healthcare Center (WLA):

Primary Preceptor: *Sunita Dergalust Pharm.D., BCPS*

Inpatient Experiences

- **Acute Care Neurology:** The resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring drug therapy and antimicrobial and anti-epileptic drug pharmacokinetic dosing consults to physicians and allied healthcare professionals. Residents will serve as the drug therapy specialist, as well as a pharmacy educator on the team. They will actively participate in interdisciplinary team meetings and medical rounds. The medical team consists of Board Certified Neurologist attendings, UCLA Neurology fellows, UCLA Neurology residents, UCLA Psychiatry interns, a clinical pharmacist, and a PGY2 Neurology Pharmacy resident.
- **Epilepsy Monitoring Unit:** This is a specialized unit that was developed as part of the Epilepsy Center of Excellence use to properly identify seizure localization and subsequently surgical candidates. The resident will work closely with the Neurology fellow and will be responsible for obtaining a detailed admission history and medication history for long term video EEG monitoring. Residents will actively participate in assessing/planning safe drug titration on and off AEDs.
- **Acute Care Neurosurgery:** The resident will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring drug therapy and antimicrobial and anti-epileptic drug pharmacokinetic dosing consults to physicians and allied healthcare professionals. Residents will serve as the drug therapy specialist, as well as a pharmacy educator on the team. They will actively participate in interdisciplinary team meetings and neurosurgical rounds. The medical team consists of UCLA Neurosurgery attendings, UCLA Neurosurgery residents and Surgery interns, a clinical pharmacist, and a PGY2 Neurology Pharmacy resident.

Ambulatory Care Experiences

- **Stroke Clinic:** In this clinic, residents will have the opportunity to assess/initiate/adjust medication regimens under the supervision of clinical pharmacists and

The resident will gain clinical insights and practical experiences in an interdisciplinary team approach to inpatient neurology care. Residents will also participate in neurology pharmacist-run clinics, where the pharmacist plays an integral role in implementing, adjusting, and monitoring drug therapy. Preceptors involved in this specialty are skilled practitioners with extensive experience in research and academia.

A focused area of study in neurology is available for residents interested in receiving additional training in this specialty. This unique opportunity provides a comprehensive experience in this area.

- attending physicians. Resident responsibilities in the clinic also include: interviewing patients prior to seeing their provider, reviewing medication profiles for drug interactions, appropriate dosing, therapy duplication, possible medication-induced side effects, and assessing compliance and barriers to compliance.
- **Seizure Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have opportunities to assess/initiate/adjust AEDs under the supervision of clinical pharmacist and attending physicians. In addition to having the same general responsibilities as those identified for the Stroke Clinic, residents, will assure a comprehensive AED history is obtained, as well as appropriately monitor seizure response.
- **Headache Clinic:** In this clinic, residents will have the opportunity to assess/initiate/adjust medication regimens under the supervision of clinical pharmacists and attending physicians. In addition to having the same general responsibilities as those identified for Stroke Clinic, residents will also educate patients regarding signs and symptoms of headache, as well as triggers.
- **Dementia/Neurobehavior Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to conduct an in-depth review of medication profiles, evaluating all medications and their potential to contribute to memory disorders. Residents will also be involved in telephone titration of dementia medications.
- **Movement Disorder Clinic:** In this one half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to provide detailed counseling on medications to patients diagnosed with various movement disorders such as Parkinson's, ataxia, and tremor.
- **General Neurology Clinic:** In this two half-day clinic, residents will have the opportunity to provide detailed counseling on medications to patients diagnosed with general neurologic disorders, particularly headache and neuropathy.



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General Program Information

Program Components	Description
General Program Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/Duration of Program: Full-time residency/12 months • Number of Positions: 12 • Residency Start Date: July 1 • Estimated Stipend: \$45,778 • Fringe Benefits: Health and life insurance, 10 paid holidays, 12 days sick leave, 12 days vacation/annual leave, professional leave available to attend meetings and educational conferences
Requirements for Consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy • US citizenship for Federal employment • License may be from any of the 50 states (California licensure required if USC affiliated); <i>licensing exam must be scheduled prior to July 1 of the residency year with licensure by September 30 of the residency year</i>
USC School of Pharmacy Affiliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional joint appointment to the residency program • Includes faculty appointment and teaching certificate • Responsibilities include teaching/facilitating discussions for Level II and Level III pharmacy students, as well as lecturing • Opportunity to participate in coursework and seminars developed by the university for pharmacy residents • Active California licensure by September 30 of the residency year is required • Separate interview with USC and subsequent acceptance by the university is required • Interested candidates should mark "YES" on the VAGLAHS Pharmacy Residency Supplemental Application



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Application

Components	Description
Required Application Materials	<p>Application via PhORCAS™</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Intent • Curriculum Vitae (CV) • Three References, preferably from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One faculty ○ One employer ○ One rotation preceptor <p><i>Completion of online recommendation form is required, letter is optional and must be included in online form</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Pharmacy School Transcript, which includes Fall rotation grades <i>May initially submit without Fall grades to meet deadline and update once available</i> <p>Supplemental Documents via PhORCAS™</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAGLAHS Pharmacy Residency Supplemental Application • OF 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment) <i>Combine documents into 1 PDF before uploading into PhORCAS™; ensure all forms are complete/populated before uploading</i>
Application Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Deadline (PhORCAS™): December 31, 11:59PM EST • Applications must be completed and submitted via PhORCAS™ and meet established deadlines to be considered
Required Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site interviews are offered to eligible candidates upon initial review of application materials • Interviews are required for final consideration



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Contact Us

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<http://www.losangeles.va.gov/trainee/index.asp>
<http://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/education/vapharmacyresidencyprogram.asp>