

## Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency (VALOR) Program

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS) is an integrated Veteran's Affairs healthcare system consisting of over 250 acute and geriatric care beds, multiple primary care teams and associated specialty clinics, and seven community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Tucson and outlying areas serving 50,000 Veterans annually. A wide range of inpatient and ambulatory care services are provided in this Robert W. Carey Award winning medical center including internal medicine, primary care, surgery, neurology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, pulmonary, cardiology, oncology, and mental health. SAVAHCS is the neurosurgery and cardiac referral center for the Southwest Region (VISN 18). The pharmacy provides progressive clinical services to the medical center with over 100 pharmacy staff members, including over 40 clinical pharmacists in a variety of practice settings. The medical center has a strong affiliation to the University of Arizona allied healthcare professions. Students and residents from many disciplines are trained at SAVAHCS each year, including eight PGY1 pharmacy residents, and one PGY2 resident in Oncology.

The Pharmacy VALOR Program is an honors program that provides opportunities for three outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. Opportunities for learning include didactic experiences, clinical practice in anti-coagulation, and experience with the distributive aspects of a hospital pharmacy. Students recruited for the program must have

completed the second professional year (or the equivalent of four semesters in a year round program) in an accredited School or College of Pharmacy.

The VALOR program is a paid internship with an hourly rate of approximately \$20.00/hour. The appointment period will be approximately 40 hours per week for 10 weeks (400 hours) during the summer months. There may be an opportunity for additional hours upon completion of the first 400 hours during the academic year up to a maximum of 400 hours.

Opportunities for learning during inpatient pharmacy practice will include distribution, IV admixture, hospital operations, working with clinicians on medication reconciliation and/or discharge counseling and documenting in the medical record.

Training in the outpatient practice will include working in the outpatient pharmacy filling prescriptions, counseling patients, screening medication related questions in the Pharmacy Phone Center, assisting in the Anti-coagulation Clinic, and documenting in the medical record.

Each student will complete a project during their 10-week internship.

## VALOR Program Goals and Objectives

### Didactic Objectives

The VALOR student will be able to:

1. Describe the organizational structure of pharmacy services at SAVAHCS
2. Develop competence through demonstration of knowledge and skills in the delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients
3. Identify processes that help to ensure

continuity of direct patient care across health care delivery settings

4. Understand and participate in the distribution process for both the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies

### Clinical Objectives

Competence will be assessed by the VALOR student's ability to:

1. Establish a collaborative working relationship with physicians and other healthcare providers in the health system
2. Establish a collaborative professional pharmacist patient relationship
3. Utilize knowledge gained from pharmacy education to design evidence-based monitoring plans for therapeutic regimens
4. Provide concise, applicable, comprehensive and timely responses to requests for drug information from patients and health care providers
5. Document patient-care activities appropriately

### Additional Education Resources

VALOR students will have the opportunity to attend conferences presented by pharmacy students and residents which cover various topics relevant for both inpatient and ambulatory practices. Located within the VA is a medical library which contains numerous medical textbooks and maintains subscriptions to approximately 300 medical journals. Students will also have full online access to UpToDate, MD Consult and OVID/Medline. Other specific drug references also include Micromedex, AHFS Drug Information and USP DI.

## Typical VALOR Student Schedule

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Week 1  | Orientation  |
| Week 2  | Anti-coagulation clinic  |
| Week 3  | Anti-coagulation clinic  |
| Week 4  | Anti-coagulation clinic  |
| Week 5  | Outpatient Pharmacy/Pharmacy Phone Center                          |
| Week 6  | Outpatient Pharmacy/Pharmacy Phone Center                          |
| Week 7  | Project Work   |
| Week 8  | Inpatient Pharmacy   |
| Week 9  | Inpatient Pharmacy   |
| Week 10 | Inpatient Pharmacy, elective days, project presentation, check out |

Doctor of pharmacy students who are finishing their second professional year of pharmacy school and are **US citizens**, with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale on coursework taken in pharmacy school, who can work 400 hours from May 15, 2017 through July 25, 2017, and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry into the program are welcome to apply for this program. *(Note: students with service obligation to any federal, state, or private institution or recipients of any federal scholarships that incur a service obligation to another organization are ineligible)*

The application packet should include:

- Cover letter
- Application for health professions trainees (VA Form 10-2850D) and a declaration for federal employment (VA Form OF306) *(VA Forms can be found at [www.va.gov/oa/app-forms.asp](http://www.va.gov/oa/app-forms.asp))*
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Official Transcripts (including fall semester grades)

- One letter of recommendation from a licensed, practicing pharmacist who knows the student at a professional level (i.e. employment supervisor, preceptor, or faculty member)
- Letter of Verification from the Director of Student Services at the College of Pharmacy, which includes the following:
  - a. Nomination of the student to the program
  - b. Verification of enrollment as a full time student, verification of successful completion of second year of Pharmacy School by May 2017, and anticipated graduation within 2 years of entry into Pharmacy VALOR Program

All application materials must be received or postmarked on or before February 10, 2017. Interviews will be extended to eligible applicants after initial review of applications.

Address application materials to:

Ashley Tritz, Pharm D, BCPS  
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System  
Pharmacy Service  
3601 S. 6th Ave (13-119)  
Tucson, AZ 85723

### For More Information Contact:

#### Ashley Tritz, PharmD, BCPS

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Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System (SAVAHCS)

# VALOR Program

Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency

# Pharmacy



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