

**G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY
VA MEDICAL CENTER
Jackson, Mississippi**

**Pharmacy VA Learning Opportunities
Residency (VALOR)**



2016-2017

Pharmacy VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR)
Academic Year 2016-2017
G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center
Program Announcement

The G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, MS, with 150 operating beds, provides primary, secondary and tertiary medical, surgical, neurological, and psychiatric inpatient care. Its primary service area is home to more than 125,000 veterans with about 45,000 unique patients. Services include radiation therapy, magnetic resonance imaging, hemodialysis, cardiac catheterization, sleep studies, substance abuse treatment, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), hematology/oncology, and rehabilitation programs. Both primary and specialized outpatient services are available, including such specialized programs as: ambulatory surgery, spinal cord injury, neurology, infectious disease, substance abuse, PTSD, readjustment counseling, and mental health diagnostic and treatment programs. Comprehensive health care is available for female veteran patients. The center operates five contractor operated Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in Meridian, Kosciusko, Greenville, Hattiesburg and Natchez. A 120-bed nursing home care unit, four 150-bed state veterans' nursing homes, community contract nursing homes and a variety of outpatient programs are utilized to support the needs of aging veterans. The VA employs 47 pharmacists who provide patient care in the inpatient and outpatient setting. The G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC is affiliated with the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and is also currently seeking an affiliation agreement with University of Louisiana at Monroe.

The Pharmacy VALOR Program is an honors program which provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. Opportunities for learning include competency-based clinical practice with a qualified pharmacist preceptor and participation in pharmacy practice conferences. Students recruited for the program must have completed the second professional year (or 4 completed semesters hours equivalent in a year round program) of education at an Accreditation Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School or College of Pharmacy.

Students will receive training in the inpatient pharmacy and outpatient. Inpatient training will include preparing intravenous preparations, pre-packing medications for distribution, orientation to automation for unit dose packaging and cart fill, calculations for dosing, selecting appropriate medication dosing and routes of administration, and familiarizing the student with working in cooperation with others in a team environment. Outpatient training will include preparing prescriptions for dispensing after a pharmacist's final review, familiarizing the student with computerized record keeping systems and provider prescribing in an ambulatory care setting, counseling patients, rounding with medical treatment teams, and other Clinical Pharmacy Specialists in the areas of Infectious Diseases, Mental Health, Hepatitis C, Diabetes, Pain Management, Home Based Primary Care, Anticoagulation, Pharmacokinetics and Adverse Drug Reporting.

Each student will be assigned a project(s) (ex. MUEs, Drug Information Inservice) to further their academic growth. Each appointment will be for 10 weeks (40 hours per week) during the summer months.

VALOR PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Didactic Objectives

The VALOR student will be able to:

1. Describe the organizational structure of pharmacy services at G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC.
2. Understand the distribution process for both the inpatient and outpatient pharmacy.
3. Develop competence through demonstration of knowledge and skills in the delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients.
4. Understand the health system's process for preventing medication errors and identifying, assessing and managing those that occur.

Clinical Objectives

The VALOR student will be able to:

1. Develop a collaborative working relationship with the healthcare team (ex. physician, nurse, social work, dietitians, and other health care providers).
2. Develop a collaborative professional patient-pharmacist relationship.
3. Provide concise, comprehensive and timely responses to drug information requests from patients and healthcare providers.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students must:

1. Be a United States citizens and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR Program.
2. Have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
3. Be able to work fulltime, continuously for a 10 week period during the period of **May 9, 2016 through August 27, 2016**.
4. Submit a letter from the Dean/Director of School or College of Pharmacy to the Chief, Pharmacy Services of the chosen VA Healthcare Facility. *Note: The letter should include the following: a nomination of the student to the program; verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school); successful completion of the second year or equivalent of pharmacy education (minimally fourth year of college education) by May/June 2016; and anticipated graduation within two years after entry into the Pharmacy VALOR Program.*
5. Upon notification of selection as a VALOR student, by the local VA Healthcare Facility, the candidate must confirm acceptance with the VA Healthcare Facility so that the employment process may be initiated.

The G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VAMC has two (2) positions available for the VALOR program and the pay rate would be at 80% of the general GS-9 Step-1. The salary rate will not be based on any special rate schedule.

APPLICATION: Submit an application for Federal Employment (VA Form 10-2850c), <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-2850c-fill.pdf> and Form 306 Declaration for Federal Employment http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of0306.pdf Optional , and a letter from the Dean/Director of School or College of Pharmacy to the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, Attn: Donna Bingham, PharmD, Department of Pharmacy Service (119), 1500 E. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, MS 39216. Applications and the letter from the Dean should be returned by **Tuesday, February 29, 2016** to be considered for interviews.

CONTACT: Donna Bingham, Pharm.D. at (601) 364-1555 or e-mail donna.bingham@va.gov or **Robin Aldridge, Human Resources Specialist** at (601) 364-1472 or e-mail Robin.Aldridge@va.gov, if you have any questions.