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 cardiac referral center for the pacific desert-region (VISN 22). 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 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 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**

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 have full online access to multiple drug information resources during this experience.
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 14, 2018 through July 24, 2018, 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/oaa/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 2018, and anticipated graduation within 2 years of entry into Pharmacy VALOR Program

All application materials must be received or postmarked on or before January 26, 2018. 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:
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