VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program

The VALOR Program is an honors program that provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in clinical pharmacy practice while working at an approved VA healthcare facility. The VALOR program focuses on development of skills and knowledge required for clinical pharmacy practice by providing clinical practice experiences under the supervision of a clinical pharmacist preceptor.

VACCHCS Pharmacy VALOR Program

The VACCHCS Pharmacy VALOR Program is a ten week internship completed between May and September. Each year, two VALOR interns are selected. During the program, they rotate through different operational, clinical, and administrative areas. Each rotation is precepted by a pharmacist who is an expert in the area. The interns are also mentored by different members of the multidisciplinary team, allowing them to gain a multidimensional view of health care. Clinical rotations take place in acute, long term, and ambulatory care settings, thereby exposing the interns to the entire spectrum of care. The interns learn about pharmacotherapeutic management for diverse disease states, including those unique to the veteran population. They are also exposed to formulary management, and develop better understanding of drug use criteria, P&T committee, and drug procurement. Throughout the program, the interns also complete various educational activities, such as journal clubs, adverse drug event reporting, and implementing clinical practice management dashboard performance metrics. By the end of the program, the interns have gained a well-rounded, comprehensive experience in pharmacy and have developed stronger patient care, professional, and leadership skills.

About VACCHCS

VACCHCS provides comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, and long term care services for veterans. It is a teaching facility, offering an ideal opportunity for young practitioners to develop their clinical skills in a diverse practice setting. VACCHCS has 57 beds for emergency, general medicine, intensive care, surgical, and acute psychiatric services. It also has a 54-bed Community Living Center (CLC) on campus that provides skilled nursing and rehabilitation care. The facility offers extensive primary and specialty ambulatory care services, provided on campus and at Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in Merced, Oakhurst, and Tulare. Staff utilize technology, such as telehealth and VA Video Connect, to make health care more convenient and accessible for veterans. In total, VACCHCS serves over 28,000 veterans throughout central California. The Pharmacy Department is composed of around 70 pharmacists, technicians, and administrative support staff, as well as two PGY1 residents, two VALOR interns, and numerous pharmacy students completing experiential education rotations throughout the year.
About Fresno, California

VACCHCS is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, where there is endless sunshine. Home to more than 522,000 people, Fresno is the fifth largest city in California and is also the world’s most productive agricultural region. It is situated near three National Parks, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Park, offering the luxuries of a big city as well as beautiful natural scenery.

Benefits:

- 10 weeks, 40 hours/week, full-time paid internship (400 hours of pharmacy-related work)
- Salary equal to 80% of the minimum entry level for new graduates (about $19.40/hour)
- Potential to be hired above minimum entry salary after graduation
- Work with teams of health care providers in a structured program with weekly rotations through a comprehensive set of functional areas
- Unique educational opportunities in areas such as managed care, medication safety, and practice management
- Opportunity to build communication, patient care, and clinical skills through individualized preceptorship from highly skilled and experienced clinicians
- Learn about the VA health care system, the largest integrated health care system in the US

Application Requirements:

- Completion of the second year (or equivalent in year-round programs) of education at an Accreditation Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School or College of Pharmacy.
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent on coursework taken in pharmacy school.
- United States Citizenship.
- Able to complete 400 hours required by the program typically between May and September of the internship year.

How to Apply:

- Go to website: USAjobs.gov and search “Pharmacy VALOR Student” within ZIP code 93703.
- Create an account (necessary in order to complete an application).
- Submit all required documents on the website:
  1. CV or resume.
  2. VA Form 10-2850, Application for Associated Health Profession Trainees.
  3. Letter on University letterhead from the Dean/Director of the School or College of Pharmacy that includes:
     a) A nomination to the Pharmacy VALOR Program;
     b) Verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school);
     c) Successful completion of the second year of pharmacy education (minimally fourth year of college education) by the time the student enters into the program; and
     d) Anticipated graduation within two years after entry in the Pharmacy VALOR Program.
  4. Two letters of recommendation from a pharmacy school faculty member, pharmacy preceptor, and/or pharmacy work supervisor.
  5. Personal letter addressing interest in the VALOR program, demonstrated abilities, applicable experience or education, and any other activities or comments that enhance qualifications for the position.

Applications accepted via USAjobs.gov March through April