Upon completion of the program, interns will be able to clinically assess patients and perform disease management activities, dose patients based on pharmacokinetics, conduct patient assessment and discharge interviews and be proficient in providing presentations. The intern will also have opportunities to participate in various research projects involving medication safety and/or quality assurance topics, publish a journal article, and prepare a poster for presentation at a state or national pharmacy conference.

The VALOR interns at VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) will have an opportunity to be exposed to different areas of pharmacy practice, including medicine/surgery, ambulatory care, clinical specialties (oncology, infectious diseases, critical care, emergency department, spinal cord injury, renal, geriatrics, psychology), quality improvement, pharmacy administration and pharmacoeconomics.

VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) includes a 304-bed tertiary care medical center in La Jolla and clinics in Mission Valley, Imperial Valley, Chula Vista, Oceanside, Escondido and Sorrento Valley, as well as two Veterans Centers in San Diego and Vista. VA San Diego has seven inpatient care areas consisting of an Intensive Care Unit, Direct Observation Unit, Surgery, Medicine, Extended Care Center, Psychiatry and Spinal Cord Injury.

Program Overview
The Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program is a national pre-residency program for pharmacy interns during their rotational year. The program is targeted towards individuals interested in a career in hospital-based pharmacy practice, either in the inpatient or ambulatory care setting. The goal of the VALOR program is to provide hands-on experience in various facets of hospital-based pharmacy practice, foster development of leadership skills and help prepare the intern for a residency program through advanced clinical training. For the 2019-2020 academic year, there are currently two VALOR positions available.

Educational Opportunities
* Learn the impact of hospital-based pharmacy practice on the healthcare system through one-on-one shadowing experiences with seasoned clinical pharmacists
* Complete a series of clinical-based patient cases and engage in various topic discussions designed to strengthen therapeutic knowledge, enhance critical thinking skills, and improve proficiency in conducting patient presentations
* Become proficient in compounding sterile preparations in accordance with USP 797 guidelines and familiar with hospital automated dispensing systems
* Complete medication safety/quality assurance projects
* Have an opportunity to conduct an original research project with the goal of presenting a poster at a state or national pharmacy meeting and/or future publication submission

Facilities
VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) includes a 304-bed tertiary care medical center in La Jolla and clinics in Mission Valley, Imperial Valley, Chula Vista, Oceanside, Escondido and Sorrento Valley, as well as two Veterans Centers in San Diego and Vista. VA San Diego has seven inpatient care areas consisting of an Intensive Care Unit, Direct Observation Unit, Surgery, Medicine, Extended Care Center, Psychiatry and Spinal Cord Injury.
Eligibility
* GPA of 3.0 or higher (For students enrolled in a school or college of pharmacy that utilizes a pass/fail grading system there must be a recommendation from the Dean or Director of academic program regarding the student’s academic achievement to substantiate selection for the VALOR program.)
* Must be enrolled in an ACPE accredited Doctor of Pharmacy program
* Must be entering last year (rotational year) of pharmacy school by Fall 2019
* Must have ≥ 80% of APPE rotations within the San Diego area
* Must have an interest in hospital-based pharmacy practice (specifically at a VA facility) and plan to apply for a PGY1 residency program in 2020
* Must be able to demonstrate leadership potential and have excellent communication skills
* Must be a US citizen

Requirements
Selected VALOR interns must be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours as a Pharmacy VALOR intern in a VA facility. Interns will be required to work full-time during the summer months immediately prior to clinical/clerkship rotations and will be expected to work on a part-time basis throughout their rotational year at the VASDHS. (For students in year-round programs, they will be expected to start immediately upon completion of their second year of didactic learning.)

Benefits
* Salary: approximately $20 - 24/hr
* Exclusive training and preparation for a pharmacy residency position
* Professional networking opportunities
* Spend additional time in areas of interest
* Exposure to the Veterans Affairs healthcare system – the largest integrated healthcare system in the USA

How to Apply
The following must be submitted ONLINE at www.usajobs.gov (direct link to job posting TBA)
1. Letter of intent. Must address:
   * qualifications and reasons for applying to the VALOR program
   * at least 1 strength and 1 weakness
2. Curriculum vitae
3. VA Form 10-2850d - Application for Health Professions Trainees
4. Pharmacy school transcript
   * For students enrolled in a college of pharmacy that utilizes a pass/fail grading system, there must be a recommendation from the Dean or Director of academic program regarding the student’s academic achievement to substantiate selection for the VALOR program.
   * The following must be EMAILED directly to the VALOR Coordinator at <jeanne.ventura@va.gov>
     ➢ TWO letters of recommendation. Letter writers must comment on the following:
       * clinical/academic and leadership abilities
       * how the candidate compares with concurrent students

For more information, please contact:
Jeanne Ventura, Pharm.D., BCPS
Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist / VALOR Coordinator
VA San Diego Healthcare System
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
jeanne.ventura@va.gov

DEADLINE: March 7, 2019
by 11:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time)