Applying for the VALOR program was one of the best decisions I've ever made! I highly recommend this program because it gives you an opportunity to experience clinical pharmacy first-hand and learn a ton while serving our nation’s Veterans.
- Emily Valentine, Pharm.D. Candidate 2019

The VALOR program is highly acclaimed for good reason. The program gives students a taste of what it is like to practice at the top of your license as a pharmacist. VA clinical pharmacists utilize their training as providers of patient care (i.e. they can request labs, change doses, etc.). Being a VALOR pharmacy student will make you an exceptional candidate for residencies/fellowships or whatever career path you choose in pharmacy.
- Matthew Daley, Pharm.D. Candidate 2019

The VALOR program at the Albany VA is unlike any other internship out there. Some internships, especially in the northeast, may appear clinical; however, the program offered in Albany is one of the only ones that fully allows you to work in a direct patient care setting alongside physicians, clinical pharmacists, and other team members. The responsibilities allocated to you not only foster development of fundamental skills, but also help foster a provider-like mindset and a sense of autonomy not typically provided by most practice settings.
- Dr. Jeffrey Bettinger, Pharm.D.

The most important thing I learned was how to think independently and function like a clinical pharmacist. You are given the opportunity to learn and grow in a way that is not available through most other internships. This is an incredible opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone who is considering pursuing a residency or a career in clinical pharmacy!
- Dr. Andrea Glogowski, Pharm.D.

This program is an unparalleled opportunity that does not come often for students. It put me on a path towards advanced pharmacy practice. I am so thankful for my time in the VALOR program and would recommend it to any students looking for an enriching program that will set you apart from other Pharm.D. candidates.
- Dr. Alexandra Watson, Pharm.D.

This program provided me with several experiences in clinical and academic pharmacy that have laid a strong foundation for me to become a great clinician. My experiences allowed me to develop and enhance my skills in communication, time management, patient counseling, leadership, problem solving, public speaking, and medication management. These experiences validated my decision to pursue advanced training in pharmacy practice.
- Dr. Michael Veve, Pharm.D.

**Testimonials**

**Application**

**Application deadline is:**
**February 15th, 2018**

Please send all application materials to Heather.Clum@va.gov prior to application deadline.

Transcripts should be mailed to the following address:
Stratton VAMC-Pharmacy 119
ATTN: Heather Clum
113 Holland Ave
Albany, NY 12208

**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact
Heather Clum
(518) 626 - 5719
Heather.Clum@va.gov

Pharmacy VA Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Program

113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
The Pharmacy VALOR Program is an honors program that provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working in a VA healthcare facility.

**Background Information**

The Pharmacy VALOR Program is an honors program that provides opportunities for outstanding students to develop competencies in pharmacy practice while working in a VA healthcare facility.

**Eligibility**

- Completion of the second professional year (or 4 completed semester hours equivalent in a year round program) of education at an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education accredited School or College of Pharmacy
- A minimum professional grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale — the GPA must be computed on their professional training in the School or College of Pharmacy. Only data on official transcripts will be used to determine grade qualifications
- Be a United States citizen and meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR Program
- Note: students with a service obligation to any Federal, State, or private institution, or recipient of any Federal scholarships are ineligible for the Pharmacy VALOR program

**Clinical Experience**

**Nephrology & Dialysis**
The VALOR intern will participate in reviews of patient profiles for appropriateness of drug dosing and will gain confidence in adjusting medication regimens in the renal population, specifically in anemia management. The VALOR intern will also participate in identifying and resolving medication therapy issues for the nephrology/dialysis population. The VALOR intern will also perform medication reconciliations with emphasis on mineral bone density, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and medication compliance. During the medication reconciliation process, the VALOR intern will be able to personally interact with the Veteran population undergoing dialysis.

**Pharmacoeconomics/Practice Management/Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring**
This rotation is designed to provide the VALOR intern with an awareness of the basic principles of pharmacoeconomics, formulary management and practice management. The VALOR intern will have local and regional exposure to activities related to pharmacy benefits management. The VALOR intern will also gain experience in the evaluation of reported adverse drug reactions; an important part of the quality improvement of patient outcomes. Data collected from these events is utilized to identify system errors and improve prescribing patterns in our Veteran population. Reports that have been verified by a clinical pharmacist are then analyzed for trends and shared with the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

**Appointment**

VALOR interns will be appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7405(a)(1)(D) at a per annum training rate equal to 80 percent of the actual salary rate in effect for general scheduled GS-9, Step 1 ($47,448/year). This equates to $18.79 per hour.

Appointment as a VALOR intern will be for 800 hours. The first 400 will occur during the summer months, and the second will be completed during the P3 year of schooling. Each VALOR intern will work alongside a qualified pharmacist preceptor.

**Procedure**

- Submit an application for federal employment to the Stratton VA Medical Center: http://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=2850d
- Submit a Curriculum Vitae, an official transcript, and one letter of reference (addressed to Dr. Amy Murdico) from an employer, faculty member, or preceptor
- Submit a letter from the registrar/dean/director of the college addressed to Amy Murdico, Pharm.D., BCPS, Pharmacy VALOR Coordinator. The letter should include the following: verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school), successful completion of the P2 year, and anticipated graduation date