The Department of Veterans Affairs
Learning Opportunities Residency
- the VALOR program -

**Prerequisites:**
1) Completion of P2 year with a ≥3.2 GPA in core pharmacy curriculum by May 2019*
2) Must be a U.S. Citizen
3) Must be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours

**Information:**
Experience multiple aspects of pharmacy including clinical practice, informatics, medication safety and administration. Clinical environments include primary care, internal medicine, and critical care. This internship opportunity will allow you to develop important skills that you can utilize for the rest of your pharmaceutical career.

*If applying prior to completion of P2 year, a second copy of official transcripts will be needed to ensure candidates have met the grade requirements.

The deadline for application submissions to Anne Parnell is March 1, 2019.

See other side for additional details
The VALOR program is a program designed to immerse pharmacy students in a clinical environment at the VA center where they can apply the information they have already been taught, as well as further develop their clinical skills. The program begins in May and will be over a summer or during the year, depending on a students’ class year (P3-summer; P4-academic year). A minimum of 400 hours at the VA facility must be completed within that time frame. Scheduling is somewhat flexible so that students’ university requirements are completed as required. This experience aims to provide students with experience that cannot be achieved through positions in other areas of pharmacy practice. Participants will be evaluated on their learning experiences and will benefit from feedback on their performance. Experiences are project based and involve each of the following areas.

1) Informatics
Technology is important at the VA. The state-of-the-art technology and computerized charting system within the VA is one of the main reasons why individuals seek VA employment. The Charleston VA medical center also uses ScriptPro technology to help with filling outpatient prescriptions and the Omnicell unit dose storage system within the inpatient setting. The VALOR participant will be exposed to all of these various technologies as well as the CPRS drug file.

2) Administrative
Policies and procedures are essential in any pharmacy setting and here at the Charleston VA medical center is no different. With over 85 pharmacy employees, it is crucial to have established policies in place. This area will allow the VALOR participant to engage in the creation of new practices and to ensure policies are being met every day.

3) Clinical
With over 65,000 outpatients serviced by the hospital, the need for clinical services at the Charleston VA continues to grow. The need for medication reconciliation is also continuing to grow. As new medications and medication devices become more common, physician, nursing, and patient education on proper dosing and use is essential. The VALOR participants will also work with clinical staff to develop new methods for patient care. The VA clinics cover several different areas of care that the participant may have an opportunity to experience.

   a) Ambulatory Medicine
   There is one primary care clinic at the facility and six surrounding community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), with each clinic employing 1-3 clinical pharmacists and multiple specialty care clinics. Pharmacists manage patients in areas such as hypertension, lipids, diabetes, rheumatology, endocrinology, HIV and anticoagulation.

   b) Inpatient Medicine
   There are four internal medicine teams and two critical care teams which employ three clinical pharmacists. The pharmacists perform activities relating to antibiotic use, renal medication dosing, and pharmacokinetics. Medication reconciliation and patient discharge counseling is also conducted in this area. Three clinical pharmacists manage the medicine and medical/surgical intensive care units. Activities in this setting include TPN monitoring, insulin dosing, antibiotic use and dosing, pharmacokinetics, anticoagulation management, and sedation and pain management.

Eligibility:
Students must have completed at least their 2nd professional year of pharmacy school by the start of the internship, and have a GPA of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale in the pharmacy curriculum. Pharmacy VALOR participants must complete 400 hours. The student must be a US citizen.

To apply:
Please send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, official copy of university transcripts, one letter of recommendation and a letter from the Dean or Assistant Dean nominating you and indicating completion (or upcoming completion) of P2 year, full time enrollment status and anticipated graduation date. Applications can be emailed or sent via mail.

Deadline: Friday, March 1, 2019

Application Address: Anne Parnell, Pharm.D., MBA
Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (119)
109 Bee Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Contact Information for Questions: Anne.Parnell@va.gov
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