

CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal health agency based in Atlanta, GA, and one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

This Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) will give the student a general understanding of CDC's mission and public health priorities, the roles pharmacists have within CDC, and the career opportunities available for pharmacists in the U.S. Public Health Service. The student will be able to take advantage of the many public health lectures and seminars that are presented at CDC during their rotation.

Goals and Objectives

The CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program provides an opportunity to learn about the CDC multidisciplinary processes for addressing a wide variety of public health issues, such as disease prevention and control, designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

The CDC Pharmacy Student Experiential Program is designed to familiarize the pharmacy student with the missions, functions, and organizational structure of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (DHHS), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and the [U.S. Public Health Service](#) (PHS).

Policies and Procedures

INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM

How to submit the application

- **The deadline for all applications is January 1st (of the year prior to the student's graduation year).**
- Applications must be submitted via email by each school's experiential coordinator. Applications will be accepted beginning in August and up through the January 1st deadline.
- Email all application materials to pharmacists@cdc.gov with "Application for _____ (student's name)" in the subject line.

Please limit the number of applications to no more than 3 per school of pharmacy.

Confirmations will be sent via email to verify receipt of each student's application. Students who are not selected by one of their top preferences may be offered the opportunity to rotate with another site at CDC. The selection process takes place between January and February and schools will be notified by email of the outcome by early March.

INFORMATION FOR THE STUDENT

How to Apply

Rotations are offered only to students in their last year of pharmacy school. Students must to apply in the year preceding their last year of pharmacy school. Rotations are available throughout the entire year, and may last anywhere from 4-6 weeks, depending upon the school's experiential program. If you are interested in an experiential rotation at CDC, please contact *your school's experiential office* to inform them of your interest. We only accept applications submitted through your school's experiential office.

We require each applicant to submit the following information:

- 1. Curriculum Vitae**
- 2. A Statement of Interest (no more than 1 page) focusing on how a rotation at CDC would facilitate achievement of your career goals. Please include three potential time slots for your rotation.**
- 3. Rank order of top three preferred [rotation sites](#).**

We wish to emphasize that the application process is highly competitive and not all applicants will be placed.

Additional Information

Housing/Parking/Transportation

Housing and transportation are not provided by the program. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements prior to the rotation.

Applicants selected for the program must be prepared to pay for:

- Round-trip transportation to their assigned CDC facility
- Living expenses during the elective

A car is highly recommended, as trips to other CDC campuses may be necessary throughout the course of the rotation. Although a car would offer the greatest flexibility for travel around the city, [MARTA](#), or Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, provides the Atlanta area with bus and rail service and is another option for students.

Legal Requirements

Students are prohibited from releasing, publishing, or disclosing non-public information, specifically any confidential patient information obtained while serving as a CDC student.

Once selected, students will be subject to a background check, as required for all CDC personnel, in order to obtain security clearance before their rotation. In preparation for this clearance, students should contact their assigned preceptor at approximately 2 months before their start date to begin the process.

Non US-citizens should contact their preceptor at least 3 months prior to their rotation start date concerning additional requirements.

Students must also bring proof of identity and citizenship in the form of either their driver's license AND birth certificate or passport.

Following the background check, a US Government ID badge will be issued to the student. It is the student's responsibility to return this back to their preceptor on the last day of their rotation. Students are not permitted to use their US Government ID for any purpose other than access to CDC campuses or beyond the last day of their rotation.

Due to our inability to place any liabilities on CDC as a governmental agency, the PSEP program can no longer sign affiliation agreements submitted by pharmacy schools. In an effort to accommodate all programs that require such agreements, each student selected for rotation, along with the applicable school official, will be required to complete and sign CDC's Student Volunteer Service Agreement. A copy of this agreement may be provided to the school upon request.

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CDC Rotation Sites

Practice Site/ Preceptor(s)	Specific Program Details
<p>Drug Service *Julian Jolly, PharmD, RPh Christopher Allen, MPH, RPh Cindy Dougherty, PharmD., RPh</p>	<p>The CDC Drug Service procures, maintains, and distributes special biologic agents and drugs to physicians in the US for the treatment of rare diseases or for the protection of researchers working with certain agents. Students will gain experience in the following: inventory and procurement practices for licensed and investigational pharmaceutical agents; data collection tools used in maintaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for protocols, response forms, and consent forms; resources for providing pharmaceutical information on drugs and biologics available at CDC to other federal agencies, state health departments, and public inquiries; collaborating with various CDC investigators on pharmaceutical-related issues; exposure to various subject matter related to infectious diseases; veterinary medicine/pharmacy practice: compounding for veterinary patients, regulatory restrictions on veterinary compounding, common disease states in laboratory animals.</p>
<p>Regulatory Affairs *Yon Yu, Pharm D, RPh Megan Brown, PharmD, RPh</p>	<p>Regulatory Affairs (RA) supports the critical task of ensuring availability and utility of medical countermeasures (MCMs) that are essential to CDC's preparedness and response activities. RA's active involvement in CDC's preparedness and response activities against emerging and bioterrorism threats is reflected in its primary oversight in ensuring regulatory compliance regarding critical MCMs against potential threats from natural, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear events. To enable rapid and effective response during events that require appropriate use of MCMs, many of which are only available through CDC, RA coordinates with Subject Matter Experts to initiate the development of required regulatory mechanisms such as Investigational New Drug applications, Emergency Use Authorization requests, Investigational Device Exemptions, and/or Emergency Use Instructions. RA also provides regulatory expertise to SMEs and Principal Investigators regarding use of medical products (e.g., drugs, biologics, devices) for both non-research and research purposes.</p>
<p>Division Of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) – (combined) - Epidemiology Branch *Paul Weidle, PharmD, MPH Vasavi Thomas, RPh, MPH and Office of the Director Donna H. McCree, PhD, MPH, RPh</p>	<p>The Epidemiology Branch is part of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. The Epidemiology Branch is responsible for CDC's domestic and also conducts international HIV research. The Branch has four science teams – Health Services Research for Prevention with Positives Team (HSR-PWP), Health Services Research for Prevention with Negatives Team (HSR-PWN), Epidemiology Research Team, and Clinical Trials Team. The Branch is composed of approximately 60 full-time scientists and support staff, most based in Atlanta, along with international field staff currently stationed in Botswana, Kenya, and Thailand. The student will be exposed to a variety of projects on the HSR-PWP and HSR-PWN team, as well as, have opportunity to work on projects with other branches in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.</p>

	<p>Students selected for this rotation will also work under the Direction of Dr. McCree, who serves as the Associate Director for Health Equity. Projects will focus on methods for identifying and strategies to address HIV-related health inequities among populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS.</p>
<p><u>Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention</u> *Jeffrey Durthaler, PharmD, RPh</p>	<p>The Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, Applied Research and Translation Team is part of CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. This program advises State Health Department grantees on work aimed at preventing and reducing the risk factors associated with heart disease and stroke and support Million Hearts. This rotation is focused on how public health can better work with and engage pharmacists as healthcare extenders. Students will have the opportunity to gain exposure to various National Centers of CDC, through seminars, meetings, and volunteer opportunities.</p>
<p><u>Birth Defects Branch</u> *Jennifer N. Lind, PharmD, MPH</p>	<p>In the United States, a baby is born with a birth defect every 4½ minutes. The Birth Defects Branch in the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities within CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, works to identify causes of birth defects, find opportunities to prevent them, and improve the health of those living with birth defects. A key priority is to prevent birth defects associated with modifiable risk factors, such as medication use during pregnancy. The Division’s <u>Treating for Two: Safer Medication Use in Pregnancy</u> initiative is a national strategy aimed at improving the health of mothers and babies by working to identify the safest treatment options for the management of common conditions before and during pregnancy.</p> <p>Students selected for this rotation will be exposed to a variety of projects within the Branch that focus on medication use during pregnancy and the childbearing years.</p>
<p><u>Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion/Office of Antibiotic Stewardship</u>: Appropriate Antibiotic Use Lauri Hicks, DO Melinda Neuhauser, PharmD, MPH Rebecca Roberts, MS</p>	<p>The Office of Antibiotic Stewardship focuses on improving how antibiotics are used in all healthcare settings - this includes outpatient/community use, inpatient/hospital use, and in nursing homes/long term care facilities. This effort targets healthcare providers, patients and families, state and local health departments, as well as many other partners to promote the appropriate use of antibiotics and provide resources and tools to support stewardship efforts. The office also uses available data sources to track and understand how antibiotics are used in all healthcare settings and publishes relevant data related to stewardship and use of antibiotics.</p>

*designates primary preceptor

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What level of pharmacy students are eligible for the CDC PSEP?

A: At this time, we are only able to accept students who are entering their PY4, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE).

Q: Do I need a Georgia Pharmacy Intern license?

A: CDC is a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services. Therefore, pharmacy students practicing as interns *may be* exempt from needing the Georgia Pharmacy Intern license if this is their only rotation in the state of Georgia. Once assigned to a CDC rotation, students are encouraged to talk to their preceptor about this matter before applying for the license.

Q: How do I check the status of my application?

A: We will confirm the receipt of each application by email with the representative from your school's experiential program who submits the application. Selections are announced sometime around early March so you should receive the outcome by that time. Therefore, please check with your school's experiential program coordinator who is responsible for submitting the application if you do not receive feedback by mid-March.

Q: What if I'm not placed with a rotation through the CDC PSEP but I am still interested in exploring other student programs?

A: Students are encouraged to explore other US Public Health Service rotations, listed on the USPHS Pharmacy Advisory Committee webpage. U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corp (USPHS) Student Opportunities: https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/pharmacy/student_programs.aspx

Another useful link: <https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads>

Q: What if I still have questions about the CDC PSEP?

A: Please send an email to pharmacists@cdc.gov with your question. Various CDC pharmacists who are involved in the program monitor this mailbox and will respond accordingly.