

Pharmacy Residency Programs – Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Pharmacy Residency?

A pharmacy residency is an organized, mentored, post-graduate training program. Typically, a residency is completed directly after graduating from a Doctor of Pharmacy program.

What will I learn in a residency program?

You will learn the knowledge and gain the experience required of pharmacists in various areas of practice. You will have the opportunity to learn from pharmacists who are experts in their area of pharmacy.

Why should I do a residency?

This is an opportunity to bridge the gap between being a pharmacy student one-day, and the next day being a licensed pharmacist. You will have the opportunity to fortify your strengths, strengthen your weaknesses, and develop confidence in your abilities as an individual pharmacist. Other benefits include a competitive advantage in the job market, networking opportunities, career planning, and attendance/participation at local and national meetings.

What is the duration of residency program?

Each residency is typically one year. They start July 1 and conclude June 30 each year. Some residencies are offered in combination with a postgraduate degree (M.S., MBA), and may take additional years to complete.

Are all residency programs the same?

No. The type of residency you select will depend on your career objectives. Select a program that will prepare you for the type of job you eventually want to have. Examples of current residency types include:

- PGY-1 (“Pharmacy Practice” or “General”) - Pediatrics - Psychiatry
- Ambulatory Care - Infectious Diseases - Oncology
- Pharmacy Management - Managed Care - Critical Care

Are residencies only for hospital-based programs?

No. There are many ambulatory based programs. In fact, these programs are among the fastest growing type.

Do I get paid during this program?

Yes. Most residencies pay roughly \$40,000-\$45,000 for the year. Some programs allow the opportunity to pick-up extra pharmacist shifts to earn extra pay. Most programs offer fringe benefits (e.g. health care, investment opportunities, etc.). Also, you may be eligible for deferring payment on your student loans during the program.

I’m not sure what type of program is right for me. What do you suggest?

The most common type of residency is a PGY-1 (“Pharmacy Practice” or “General”) residency. It covers a broad spectrum of practice areas and patient types. Required experiences include acute care, ambulatory care, drug information, and practice management. In addition to these “core” elements, each program has various specialty areas to complete the training experience. Also, a research project (in collaboration with one of your preceptors) is completed during the residency year. Some programs include teaching/precepting opportunities in cooperation with an affiliated college of pharmacy. Finally, programs have various service (“staffing”) requirements. Typically, staffing requires functioning as a pharmacist during evening and/or weekend hours.

How do I apply for a residency program?

PGY-1 and PGY-2 residencies (ASHP-accredited) require participation in the residency-matching program. This is a formal process that attempts to match applicants to their choice of programs and vice versa. Programs that are in the process of receiving accreditation may also participate in the residency-matching program. Check with the individual program to verify their accreditation, and match participation status.

To participate in the Match for a position designated as a PGY-2 residency, an applicant must have already completed a PGY-1 residency, or currently be in training in a PGY-1 residency program that will be completed before the start of the PGY-2 residency.

Current PGY-1 residents who are interested in continuing their training in a PGY-2 residency offered by the same sponsor as the applicant’s PGY-1 residency (e.g., the same or an affiliated organization) may be able to obtain the position through an Early Commitment Process. Applicants who are committed to a position in this manner do not need to register for or participate in the Match.

After I complete this residency experience, what is next?

You will have an advantage over many of your peers regarding employment opportunities. More “doors” will be open to you, and you will have more freedom in your career choice. Many employers value residency-trained pharmacists, and some jobs require residency experience. Graduates of residency programs go on to the following: pharmacist positions (staff, specialist, manager, etc) in their area of training, faculty positions, specialty residency programs, or fellowship programs.

How do I find out more about residency programs and where they are located?

Here are a few good resources: www.ashp.org/residents, your college’s ASHP advisor, local pharmacy practice residency directors, and ASHP’s Midyear Clinical Meeting, which showcases virtually all of the ASHP-accredited programs.

Checklist for Residency Applicants

September/October

- Attend the local residency showcase at NDSU on Friday, September 12, 2014
- Review the ASHP Online Directory which provides information on ASHP-accredited residencies
- Request additional information and applications from programs of interest
- Register to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting; select programs to visit at the Residency Showcase. Meeting registration is \$285 for student members and \$395 for student non-members for 2014
- Make necessary travel and lodging arrangements for the Midyear Meeting

November

- Prepare your curriculum vitae (CV):
<http://www.ashp.org/menu/MemberCenter/SectionsForums/PSF/CareerCenter/Career-Planning/Curriculum-Vitae-Resource-Center.aspx>
- Residency programs participating in the Match are listed on www.natmatch.com/ashprmp and select “List of Participating Programs”

December

- Attend the Midyear Meeting. This is the largest annual pharmacy meeting, with over 20,000 participants and 200 exhibitors from all over the USA, and students from virtually all colleges/schools of pharmacy.
 - Location: rotates yearly between Anaheim (2014), New Orleans (2015), Las Vegas (2016), Orlando (2017)
 - What to do when there: national clinical skills competition, residency showcase, industry showcase, continuing education programs, job interviewing (PPS), poster sessions, social gatherings, and many other programs geared towards pharmacy students (NAPLEX prep course, etc)
- Request letters of recommendation, prepare cover letters, and complete paperwork for residency applications
- Schedule on-site interviews

January

- On-site interviews
- For application to residencies participating in the Match, submit application agreement form and fee (\$130) to the National Matching Service.
- Applicants must also apply to the individual residency programs, in addition to the Match. Application deadlines for individual residency programs vary; therefore applicants should check with each program regarding their deadline date. Many of these programs use PhORCAS, an online portal, to process applications. The cost for PHORCAS is \$75 for applying up to 4 programs, \$25 per program after that. <https://portal.phorcas.org/>

February

- Complete interviews. Narrow residency choices to programs that best meet your needs and goals.
- For application to residencies participating in the Match, submit Rank Order Form to the National Matching Service by their published date. Open from February 6 – March 6 for 2015

March

- Receive match results at noon (Eastern Time) on the published date. March 20 for 2015
- Unmatched residency candidates may directly contact programs with positions that remain unfilled (and vice-versa)