VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WEST TEXAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

POST-GRADUATE YEAR | 2027-2028

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
JANUARY 2, 2027

MUST have U.S. citizenship and Pharm.D. degree from an accredited SOP

The following application materials must be uploaded to PhORCAS:

- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Pharmacy School Transcripts**
- **3 letters of recommendation**
- **Letter of Intent**
- **2 samples of written work**
  (DI question or journal club)

OUR PROGRAM

The ambulatory care-focused PGY1 pharmacy residency program at the West Texas VAHCS will prepare **two** pharmacy residents to function as clinicians providing advanced patient care and become eligible to pursue second year postgraduate training in a focused area of practice.

ABOUT WEST TEXAS VA

The George H. O' Brien Jr Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Big Spring, TX is the core of the West Texas Veterans Affairs Health Care System (WTVAHCS), collectively serving more than 17,000 veterans throughout West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

Clinical pharmacists can connect with veterans across 53, 000 square miles. Likewise, comprehensive residential care pharmacy services are provided for veterans admitted to the 40-bed Community Living Center (CLC).

QUESTIONS? LET'S CONNECT

Residency Program Director:
Dennia Ernest, PharmD
Dennia.Ernest@va.gov

Current PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident:
Saylor McFarland
Saylor.Mcfarland@va.gov

PROGRAM DETAILS

Core Learning Experiences

- Anticoagulation (5 weeks)*
- Community Living Center (Geriatrics)
- Home -Based Primary Care
- Orientation and Inpatient/Outpatient Operations
- Pain/Mental Health
- Patient Alignment Care Team (PACT) I (5 weeks)*
- Patient Alignment Care Team (PACT) II with Precepting
- Pharmacy Management, Policy, and Informatics

Longitudinal Core Learning Experiences

- Staff/Student Education
- Staffing
- Major Project

Elective Learning Experiences

Include, but are not limited to:

- Pain II (4 weeks)
- Mental Health II (4 weeks)
- Informatics (4 weeks)
- VA PROP Teaching and Precepting Certificate) (longitudinal)

Pay & Benefits

- Competitive stipend
- 13 days vacation & sick leave
- 11 federal holidays
- Health, vision, and dental insurance
- Lab coats & laundry service
- Free parking
- Conference attendance

*Core Learning experience are 6 weeks unless otherwise noted

FAQs

What does a typical resident workday look like?
Residents work in the pharmacy from 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday. Duties vary based on rotation, but include in-person and telehealth patient visits, writing notes, staff coverage, and other projects.

What have past residents gone on to do in their careers?
Past residents have gone on to complete PGY2s in academia and mental health. They have accepted positions as clinical pharmacy specialists in ambulatory care, mental health, pain management, hepatitis C, and academia.

How many hours per week do residents spend on program-related work?
40-45 hours in the pharmacy, plus approximately 10 hours per week on projects outside of work.

What are the resident staffing responsibilities?
Lunch coverage daily for one hour, one day per month in inpatient, and late shift (4:30-5:00) two weeks per month.

Do you offer teaching opportunities?
We offer an optional teaching certificate and annual precepting opportunities.

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