Pharmacy Student APPE Opportunities at Vanderbilt Medical Center

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) is a comprehensive healthcare facility dedicated to patient care, research, and biomedical education. Vanderbilt’s mission is to advance health and wellness through preeminent programs in patient care, education, and research.

The training of pharmacy students is an essential component of the mission of the Department of Pharmacy that coincides with the educational and patient care missions of the Medical Center. The Vanderbilt Medical Center Department of Pharmacy is a teaching site for undergraduate pharmacy students from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy, Belmont University College of Pharmacy, the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, and Samford University School of Pharmacy.

Pharm.D. students during their fourth year have the opportunity to practice in many clinical areas including Adult Medicine, Pediatrics, Adult Surgery, Ambulatory Care, and Pharmacy Administration at VUMC. Rotational experiences at VUMC adhere to the guidelines set forth by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE).

Our preceptors here at VUMC are positive role models for students and have demonstrated the following behavior, qualities, and values:

- practice ethically and with compassion for patients
- accept personal responsibility for patient outcomes
- have professional training, experience, and competence commensurate with their position
- utilize clinical and scientific publications in clinical care decision making and evidence-based practice
- have a desire to educate others (patients, care givers, other health care professionals, students, pharmacy residents)
- have an aptitude to facilitate learning
- be able to document and assess student performance
- have a systematic, self-directed approach to their own continuing professional development
- collaborate with other health care professionals as a member of a team
- be committed to their organization, professional societies, and the community

The first day of each APPE rotation at Vanderbilt, students will be provided the policy for dress code and personal appearance and the VUMC Credo. Individual preceptors will also provide students with a syllabus and outline the expected behavior, effort, and outcomes during the rotation month.

Students will also have the opportunity to work with Pharmacy Residents, PGY-1 and PGY-2, depending upon the selected rotation and time of the year. Pharmacy Residents will not be the main preceptors but will facilitate educational experiences by directing topic discussions, reviewing patient cases, and critiquing primary literature through journal club activities.

Dr. David Gregory, Director of Education and Research, oversees the APPE’s available at VUMC. Ms. Gayle Lane will be in contact with students prior to their rotation to ensure that they are able to obtain an appropriate VUMC ID badge and VUNet ID. This structure involving Dr. Gregory, Ms. Lane, preceptors, residents, and students ensures a smooth transition into VUMC APPE’s and a great month of learning and developing for students.