



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY PROGRAM

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION MANUAL

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School of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
Contact and Website Information	3
History, Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values	4
Accreditation	4
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION	4
Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs)	5
Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs)	6
Dual Degree Program	7
CORE ELMS	8
EXPERIENTIAL PRACTICE SITES	8
Criteria for Experiential Practice Sites	8
Affiliation Agreements	8
Practice Site Evaluation and Feedback	8
PRECEPTORS/AFFILIATE FACULTY	8
Preceptor Criteria	9
Responsibilities of Preceptors	9
Preceptor Application Process	9
Preceptor Preparation and Development	10
Preceptor Benefits	10
Preceptor Assessment	11
Experiential Education Awards	11
Preceptor Promotion	12
ASSESSMENT	12
Evaluations Online in CORE ELMS	12
Preceptor Evaluation of Student	12
Grading Scale	13
Student Self-Evaluation	13
Student Evaluation of Preceptor/Site/Rotation	13
Incomplete or Failed Rotation	14
STUDENTS	14
Experiential Education Overview	14
Regions	15
Rotation Assignments - Procedures	15
Student Identification of New Rotation Sites	16
Student Rotations Contract	16
QUALITY ASSURANCE	22
SYLLABI, FORMS AND TOOLS	24
POLICIES	25
Absences and Tardiness During Rotations	25
Attendance at Professional Meeting While on Rotation	25
Attributes of Professionalism	26
Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure During Experiential Education	27
Inova Health System's Exposure Control Plan	28
Additional Policies and Statements	29

**VCU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
OFFICE OF EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION (OEE)**

VCU SoP's Office of Experiential Education (OEE) is responsible for the overall programmatic planning and oversight of the experiential learning programs. In collaboration with preceptors and advisors, OEE strives to ensure experiential programming is meeting ACPE Standards and the goals and objectives of the school's Mission Statement and Learning Outcomes and Professional Competencies.

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VCU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

HISTORY

Established in 1898, the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Pharmacy (SoP) on the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Campus has a long history of commitment to excellence in education and research, attracting outstanding faculty, and offering one of the nation's top professional graduate programs, the four (4) year Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.

MISSION STATEMENT

To achieve excellence in our PharmD and graduate programs through innovative education and leading-edge research.

We will achieve our mission by graduating outstanding future pharmacists and scientists who will improve human health, foster exemplary research, and provide sustaining contributions to interprofessional patient care.

VISION

A transformational leader in pharmacy education, clinical practice, and clinical and pharmaceutical research.

Core Values

1. **Innovation:** We encourage innovations and ideas that advance the school's mission.
2. **Personal growth:** We pursue professional growth and personal development that drives excellence.
3. **Integrity and respect:** We demonstrate ethical behaviors, personal responsibility, and respect for others.
4. **Collaboration:** We embrace interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaboration in patient care, teaching, learning, and research.
5. **Inclusive excellence:** We promote an environment of engagement and inclusion that values the diversity and contributions of our students, staff, faculty, and administrators.

ACCREDITATION

VCU SoP is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education (ACPE). VCU shares the mutual goal with ACPE of assuring the optimal preparation of pharmacists for current and future practice, and ultimately to improve the healthcare outcomes of the patients and populations they serve.

<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/>

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Experiential education provides students with real-life active participation and in-depth exposure in a variety of pharmacy settings. The Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) Program and the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) Program together augment students' classroom education by providing experiences in many aspects of contemporary pharmacy practice and represent approximately one-third of the four-year program. APPEs emphasize patient care services, clinical skills, problem solving, and critical thinking by allowing students to integrate and apply, reinforce, and advance the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values developed throughout the curriculum. Experience in pharmacy settings under the supervision and feedback of practicing pharmacists is critical to the development of patient-centered pharmacists.

Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) for PharmD Students

The IPPE Program of 300 hours is for students in their first three (3) years of pharmacy school. With appropriate preceptor supervision and coaching, students are introduced to and involved in the fundamentals of pharmacy practice and patient care experiences in actual practice settings and service learning experiences. IPPEs emphasize pharmacy operations, patient-focused dispensing, pharmacy management, and development of core practice skills, including communications, calculations, health promotion, ethics, medication safety, technology, informatics, and critical thinking. Achievement of professional competencies and behaviors is demonstrated by evaluations conducted by the preceptors.

IPPE Courses/Rotations

PHAR 530 – IPPE: Community Pharmacy

P1 Year

Course Description: Semester course; 40 hours per week for four weeks. 4 credits. Students will work with an assigned community pharmacist for a four-week (160 hours) experience at the end of the P1 year to practice pharmacy under supervision in a community environment while learning about the medication use system. Students will demonstrate core practice skills: communication, pharmacy calculations, ethics, wellness and health promotion, informatics and critical thinking. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 532 – IPPE: Hospital Pharmacy

P2 Year

Course Description: Semester course; 40 hours per week for three weeks. 3 credits. Students will work with an assigned hospital pharmacist for a three-week (120 hours) experience at the end of the P2 year to practice pharmacy under supervision in a hospital environment and learn about hospital pharmacy management and medication distribution systems, including the scope of clinical pharmacy services. Students will demonstrate core practice skills: communication, pharmacy calculations, ethics, medication safety, technology, informatics and critical thinking. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 533 – IPPE: Patient Care

P3 Year

Course Description: Semester course; 0.5 credit hour. Students will complete a minimum of 20 hours of approved patient care activities while supervised by pharmacists/preceptors or other approved health care professionals. Patient care activities enable students to learn about social issues and how to apply their knowledge to address real problems in their own community, and include activities that:

- Meet a community need;
- Establish or enhance a relationship between the community and the school;
- Help foster civic and professional responsibility and the development of a sense of caring for others;
- Are integrated into the required academic curriculum;
- Provide structured time to reflect on the experience;
- Enhance what is taught in the didactic curriculum by extending student learning beyond the classroom;
- Provide opportunities for interaction with other health professional students and practitioners; and
- Attempt to balance the service that is provided and the learning that takes place.

Graded as pass (P), fail (F).

More IPPE information, including the syllabi, guides, tools, and resources may be found in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Documents Library), or on the school's website (<http://go.vcu.edu/oeo> > IPPE/APPE).

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) for PharmD Students

The APPE program of 1,600 hours is for students in their 4th year of pharmacy school (P4). APPEs emphasize patient care services, clinical skills, problem solving, and critical thinking by allowing students to integrate and apply, reinforce, and advance the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values developed throughout the curriculum.

The student must complete a minimum of forty (40) hours per week for five weeks, or 200 hours, on each of the eight (8) rotations to fulfill the requirements of the curriculum. The hours should not exceed 50 hours in any week at the practice site. Time necessary to complete homework assignments outside of the practice site should not be included in the 40-50 hours per week rotation experience. Daily work schedule times are site-dependent and determined by the preceptor.

REQUIRED ROTATIONS

APPEs consists of eight (8) full-time five (5)-week rotations that together provide experiences in a variety of pharmacy settings and of adequate intensity, duration, and breadth of patients, populations, and diseases pharmacists are likely to encounter in practice. Each must complete six (6) required rotations and 2 elective rotations. The six required rotations are:

- Ambulatory care: PHAR 763
- Advanced community pharmacy: PHAR 768
- Advanced hospital pharmacy: PHAR 761
- Acute care I: PHAR 760
 - general medicine
- Acute care II: PHAR 773
 - either general/internal medicine or a medical specialty
- Clinical selective: PHAR 767

ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

The two (2) elective rotations allow students to explore areas of personal interest, expand their understanding of professional opportunities, and complement the required experiences, in addition to achieving the outcomes of the curriculum. Examples include pharmacy management, compounding, drug information, clinical specialties, and teaching and administrative opportunities. Each type of elective may be taken only one time. However, students may repeat a required course as an elective subject to availability after all students' required courses/rotations have been assigned.

- Elective 1 & 2: PHAR 765, 766

More APPE information, including the syllabi, tools, and resources may be found in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Documents Library), or on the school's website (<http://go.vcu.edu/oeo> > IPPE/APPE).

APPE Courses/Rotations

PHAR 760 - Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an acute care hospital setting. Students will actively participate in the delivery of patient care on an inpatient general medicine service. These services are expected to be integrated with the hospital pharmacy services. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 761 – Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a hospital pharmacy department. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 763 - Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an ambulatory care, multidisciplinary practice setting. These sites may include hospital-based clinics, physician group practices, safety net clinics, and managed care facilities that provide health care directly to patients. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 765, 766 – Advanced Pharmacy Practice Elective I & II

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. Each course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a variety of pharmacy practice settings and provides the student with highly focused experiences in the area of the preceptor's specialty. The student is expected to participate in the day-to-day activities of the preceptor to explore his/her interest in the elective area and to develop an in-depth understanding of that area. The learning objectives will be adapted by the preceptor to fit site-specific objectives unique to the elective experience. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 767 - Clinical Selective Pharmacy Practice

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of inpatient or outpatient direct patient care advanced pharmacy practice experience in a variety of settings. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 768 - Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a community pharmacy setting. Students will focus on delivering patient-centered care and medication use systems in a community pharmacy. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

PHAR 773 - Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II

Course Description: Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an acute care hospital setting. Students participate in the delivery of patient care in a general medicine or a medical specialty service. These services are expected to be integrated with the hospital pharmacy services. Graded as honors (H), high pass (HP), pass (P), fail (F).

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Students in the Dual Degree Programs are required to complete Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences similar to students not enrolled in the dual degree program. Placement of the experiences and sometimes the types of experience vary according to the type of dual degree program. While required APPE types are consistent throughout all programs with the PharmD degree, elective types can vary according to dual degree program. For more information about the combined degree program, please refer to information at <https://pharmacy.vcu.edu/admissions/dual-degree/>.

CORE ELMS

CORE ELMS is a software-as-a-service web-based experiential learning management system (SaaS web-based ELMS) used by VCU SoP for detailed student, site, and preceptor management, student and site requirements, rotation scheduling, evaluations, communications tools, and more. The syllabi of all IPPE and APPE courses/rotations, this Manual, and many forms and tools are all available in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Document Library), in addition to being accessible on the school's website (<http://go.vcu.edu/oee>).

EXPERIENTIAL PRACTICE SITES

A broad variety of quality practice sites are essential to VCU SoP's experiential learning program. In compliance with ACPE standards and guidelines, practice sites for students' experiential rotations are appropriately licensed and selected based on quality criteria to ensure the effective and timely delivery of the experiential component of the curriculum.

Criteria for Experiential Practice Sites

- Meet all state and federal laws related to the practice of pharmacy
- Conduct patient care and business in an ethical manner
- Be clean, organized, and well managed
- Have sufficient work volume to facilitate learning
- Have a patient population that supports the learning objectives for the experience
- Be committed to the education of pharmacy students
- Demonstrate a practice environment that nurtures and supports professional interactions between students, pharmacists, and patients and their caregivers
- Have adequate resources to ensure that students receive oversight, professional guidance, and performance feedback from preceptors
- Have space, equipment and technology that reflect contemporary practice and support student education for that practice
- Foster collaborative professional relationships with other healthcare providers
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to health promotion, disease prevention, and patient safety

Affiliation Agreements

The written affiliation agreement defines the responsibilities of the school, responsibilities of the practice site, and general conditions for a specified period of agreement, and must be executed by both parties (the site and the school) prior to assignment of students to that site. Affiliation agreements are reviewed and updated every 5 years.

Practice Site Evaluation and Feedback

Rotation and site feedback from students is beneficial to the school for quality assurance purposes. For each rotation, the student must evaluate and provide feedback about the preceptor and site via CORE ELMS at the end of each rotation. The school does not share these evaluations with the preceptor until the end of the academic year and only in an anonymous, aggregate fashion. However, the student is able to share their feedback with the preceptor at any time. (For more information, see Quality Assurance on page 22.)

PRECEPTORS/AFFILIATE FACULTY

The selection of qualified preceptors to serve in the field is essential to effectively deliver and evaluate students in the experiential component of the curriculum. Preceptors have professional credentials and expertise commensurate with their responsibilities to the professional program. With

University appointments, these preceptors are considered affiliate faculty for VCU SoP in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science (DPOS).

Preceptors demonstrate a desire and aptitude for teaching that includes the important roles necessary for teaching clinical problem-solving including instructing, modeling, coaching/mentoring, and facilitating. Serving essential functions as instructor, supervisor, role model, and mentor, preceptors guide and monitor students in the application of knowledge learned in the classroom to patient care in practice, and evaluate and grade the student's progress. Not only do preceptors provide future pharmacists with an invaluable exposure to the "real world" of pharmacy practice, they also influence the behaviors, opinions, and attitudes that graduates will carry throughout their careers.

Over multiple years preceptors who have consistently provided rotation opportunities to VCU SoP students may be eligible to receive a faculty appointment. Faculty/preceptors make substantial contributions to the school and university primarily through their expertise, interest, and motivation to assist with the instruction of students in classroom and experiential settings.

Preceptor Criteria

- Have a minimum of two years' experience post-licensure or have completed a PGY-1 residency
- Have professional education, experience, and competence commensurate with their position
- Have had enough time at their current practice site to ensure that they are comfortable managing their practice with the addition of student(s)

Responsibilities of Preceptors

Contributing to the mission of VCU SoP to prepare the next generation of pharmacists, preceptors fulfill these responsibilities:

- Organizing the Rotation: Preceptors are tasked with organizing the student's experiences, preparing the site for the student, identifying documentation and/or processes that will be needed on the first day of the rotation, and providing site or rotation-specific instructions.
- Providing a Positive Learning Environment: Preceptors are viewed as mentors and educators. They should provide students with an orientation to the site, practice, and staff and set clear expectations for student performance and behavior. Throughout the rotation, preceptors should be available to students and provide ongoing feedback and appropriate supervision.
- Completing Assessments and Providing Thoughtful Feedback: Preceptors should complete a midpoint and final evaluation of student in CORE ELMS in a timely manner. In addition, preceptors should provide constructive, thoughtful feedback to help students grow their skills and abilities and challenge them to improve.
- Appropriately Manage Situations Involving Students: If a difficult situation with a student arises, the preceptor will appropriately address the issue handling information with discretion and professionalism.

Preceptor Application Process

The New Preceptor Information and Application Packet informs interested parties and applicants of the criteria and responsibilities of precepting to ensure the applicants' awareness and willingness to fulfill the school's expectations for faculty in the field. To initiate the process of faculty appointment as a preceptor, each applicant must complete the Preceptor Information and Application Packet to provide pertinent information, including contact information, pharmacy degree earned, pharmacy school and year of graduation, other degrees, residency training, certifications, pharmacy organization memberships, states in which licensed, site of practice, years at current site, etc. The applicant will also provide his/her practice site information including practice description, person in charge when the preceptor is absent, hours of operation, clinical specialties offered, description of the practice site, and any site-specific requirements for the student.

The Preceptor Information and Application Packet is available online at <http://go.vcu.edu/oeo> > Preceptors. Use the institution code VCUPRECEPTOR to access the application.

Preceptor Preparation and Development

The intent of preceptor preparation and development is to foster the teaching and evaluation skills required of preceptors and ensure a consistent philosophy through professional learning experiences. Preceptor preparation and development include:

- Orientation to the school and accreditation requirements for experiential education.
- Precepting Basics and Tips/Tools for Success
 - Rotation organization
 - Communication, expectations, and accountability
 - Feedback and evaluating students
 - Managing challenging situations
- Topics pertaining to experiential education that enhance your knowledge and skills as a preceptor.

The VCU SoP OEE provides multiple opportunities and a variety of types of preceptor education opportunities.

- Application Information: Information included with the preceptor application provides a written orientation prior to the assignment of students. This packet describes what the new preceptor needs to know and do, including requirements for preceptors and sites.
- Syllabus Information: The syllabi/guides for IPPE and APPE courses/rotations provide a description of the rotation type, the learning objectives of the experience, activities, suggested discussion topics, evaluations, and policies.
- Preceptor Newsletter: The OEE newsletters are published and distributed electronically at regular intervals throughout the year. The newsletter includes preceptor education sections as well as items of interest pertaining to the experiential education and the SoP.
- Continuing Education: Continuing education sessions are offered for preceptors throughout the year in different formats.
- Online Resources: Numerous online resources are available to preceptors to help them be more effective and efficient, have more quality time for teaching pharmacy students, and need less time to figure out how to be a great preceptor. The Document Library of CORE ELMS contains many helpful materials, such as course documents, precepting tools, and other resources.

Preceptor Benefits

The VCU SoP and OEE appreciate preceptors for making practice experiences available, relevant, meaningful, and challenging for our students. Preceptors meeting the criteria for a faculty appointment will be appointed to the Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science. The decision to offer initial appointments, continue existing appointments, or terminate appointments, is made by the Dean of the School of Pharmacy following recommendations of the Associate Dean for Experiential Education and the Chair of the Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science. All appointments and promotions are subject to final approval by the University.

In recognition of their significant contributions in expertise, interest, and motivation to assist the universities' experiential education programs, the School will:

1. Provide online access privileges to the VCU libraries
2. Provide continuing education programs (some free)
3. Provide preceptor training programs (free)
4. Invite preceptors to serve on OEE committees and task forces where appropriate
5. Encourage interaction among the full-time faculty of the school and affiliate faculty

In addition, preceptors experience their own personal and professional development, boosts in morale from enthusiastic students, and opportunities for staff recruitment. Most preceptors feel that

not only do the students learn from them, but they also learn from their students. Students can also provide valuable assistance to the practice site through activities such as medication history and reconciliation, patient counseling, health screenings, educational programs, special projects, and assistance with medication distribution.

Preceptor Assessment

Just as helpful feedback from preceptors is beneficial to students in developing professional competencies and behaviors, helpful feedback from students is beneficial to preceptors and the school to ensure the learning experience for students is optimal. For each rotation, the student must evaluate and provide feedback about the preceptor, site, and rotation experience in CORE ELMS at the end of each rotation. The school does not share these evaluations with the preceptor until the end of the academic year and only in an anonymous, aggregate fashion. However, the student is encouraged to share their feedback with the preceptor at any time. (For more information, see Quality Assurance on page 22.)

When completing the preceptors' evaluations online in CORE ELMS, students are encouraged to nominate worthy preceptors for Outstanding Preceptor Awards. In order for nominations to be considered, nominators must provide written comments to support the worthiness of the nomination. For more information, see Experiential Education Awards below.

Experiential Education Awards

Annual awards recognize outstanding and exemplary preceptors and sites. Annual Awards include 5 - 10 Outstanding Preceptor Awards, and one Preceptor of the Year Award. While not given every year, other awards include a Partner Recognition Award, which is given to a site that has gone above and beyond as an experiential partner for the VCU SoP. The Service Award is given to a preceptor who has made significant contributions to experiential education throughout the year.

Criteria for the preceptor awards include: the individual stimulates active independent and guided learning with constructive feedback; demonstrates interest in and enthusiasm for teaching; is inspiring and passionate about the profession; is accessible to students and organized; demonstrates professionalism, leadership, and management skills; is active in the profession and in professional organizations; and is an excellent communicator and positive role model with well-developed interpersonal skills.

Students nominate preceptors for Outstanding Preceptor Awards during the year via the on-line experiential learning management system, CORE ELMS. In order for nominations to be considered, nominators must provide written comments of the most important attributes of the preceptor that meet one or more of the criteria to support the worthiness of the nomination. From student nominations, the successful five to ten Outstanding Preceptor Award recipients will be selected. To augment the students' nominations, the OEE Committee may review the records of preceptors for additional information about each nominee. A certificate plaque is presented to each Outstanding Preceptor Award recipient.

The Preceptor of the Year Award is presented annually to an APPE preceptor who has a demonstrated history of excellent precepting for at least five years and has been nominated by a student in the current and/or previous five years for the Outstanding Preceptor Award. OEE will review the records of each eligible candidate for length and magnitude of sustained service as a VCU preceptor, which may include current and previous years' award nominations and comments, cumulative number of IPPE and APPE students precepted in each of the past five years, and current and previous years' evaluations by students. A cash award of \$500 and engraved clock are presented to the Preceptor of the Year at the Hooding and Diploma Ceremony, and overnight travel expenses are reimbursed if needed.

More information about these awards, including past recipients, may be found on the OEE's web site, <http://go.vcu.edu/oee> > Preceptor Awards.

Preceptor Promotion

Affiliate faculty/preceptor appointments are at the ranks of clinical instructor, clinical assistant professor, clinical associate professor, and clinical professor. Promotion in rank reflects recognition of the quality of sustained efforts to the SoP's mission. There are three major academic criteria on which appointments and promotions are based: teaching; scholarship and professional growth; and service to the university, school, department, profession, and broader community.

To be considered for promotion by the promotions committee, the affiliate faculty member is required to develop a portfolio demonstrating achievements and accomplishments related to their professional practice and their contributions to the mission of Virginia Commonwealth University and the School of Pharmacy. Portfolios must be sent to the Associate Dean for Experiential Education and/or Chairman of the Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science. Promotion is based on the consistent quality of the contributions made to the profession, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the School of Pharmacy. For more information, please send an email to OEE@vcu.edu requesting a copy of "Guidelines for Clinical Affiliate Faculty Appointment and Promotion".

ASSESSMENT

Evaluations Online in CORE ELMS

Preceptors use the online CORE ELMS system to evaluate and grade students' competencies and professionalism. In addition, students use CORE ELMS for their self-evaluations and to document their evaluation of the rotation and the preceptor's professionalism. Using CORE ELMS promotes consistency and reliability of assessments among users.

To become familiar with the online evaluation forms prior to using them in CORE ELMS, you may first wish to view and/or print a copy of the form. Forms are available in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Documents Library), and on the OEE web site (<http://go.vcu.edu/oee> > Preceptors > IPPE/APPE).

If you have any questions regarding CORE ELMS or the evaluation process, contact OEE at 804-828-3005, 800-330-0519, or OEE@vcu.edu.

Preceptor Evaluation of Student

Throughout each rotation, the preceptor and the student should have informal discussions about the student's performance to provide prompt feedback, mitigate concerns, ensure that the student is on track, identify improvements that are needed before completing the rotation, and to guide future performance.

At midpoint during 3-week rotations, the preceptor informally evaluates the student's competencies and professionalism, discusses the student's progress, and provides feedback for improvement. At the end of 3-week rotations, the preceptor formally evaluates the student's performance online in CORE ELMS.

At both midpoint and the end of 4- and 5-week rotations, the preceptor formally evaluates the student's competencies and professionalism online in CORE ELMS.

A midpoint conference between the preceptor and the student must be used to openly discuss the student's progress and to share information on the evaluations. Unsatisfactory student progress

should be reported to OEE at 804-828-3005 or OEE@vcu.edu as soon as detected.

In the final week of the rotation and no later than the last day, the preceptor must complete the student's final evaluation online and the CORE ELMS system will calculate the student's competencies and professionalism grades. The preceptor and the student must discuss in person the student's final evaluation at the end of the rotation.

Grading Scale

The Community and Hospital IPPE grading scale for the competencies and professionalism evaluations is a 3-point scale.

COMPETENCIES GRADING SCALE

Honors	2.85 – 3.00
High Pass	2.65 – 2.84
Pass	2.10 – 2.64
Fail	< 2.10

PROFESSIONALISM GRADING SCALE

Pass	2.50 – 3.0
Fail	< 2.5

The APPE grading scale for the competencies evaluation is a 4-point scale. The professionalism evaluation is based on a 3-point scale.

COMPETENCIES GRADING SCAL

Honors	3.75 – 4.00
High Pass	3.50 – 3.749
Pass	2.50 – 3.49
Fail	< 2.5

PROFESSIONALISM GRADING SCALE

Pass	2.50 – 3.0
Fail	< 2.5

The student is not to lobby the preceptor for a higher grade. Doing so may result in a reduction in the rating for Integrity and Trustworthiness and thereby affect the overall professionalism grade. Further, breach of patient or site confidentiality will result in dismissal from the site and failure of the rotation. If the preceptor has reason to believe the student may not pass the rotation, OEE should be notified immediately by contacting 804-828-3005 or OEE@vcu.edu.

Failing professionalism results in failure of the rotation, regardless of the student's competencies evaluation.

Student Self-Evaluation

At midpoint during 3-week rotations, the student informally self-evaluates their performance of competencies and professionalism, discusses their progress with their preceptor, and solicits feedback for improvement. At the end of 3-week rotations, the student formally self-evaluates their performance online in CORE ELMS.

At both midpoint and the end of 4- and 5-week rotations, the student formally self-evaluates their performance of competencies and professionalism online in CORE ELMS.

The student and the preceptor must discuss the final evaluation of the student at the end of each rotation.

Student Evaluation of Preceptor/Site/Rotation

Just as helpful feedback from preceptors is beneficial to students in developing professional competencies and behaviors, helpful feedback from students is beneficial to preceptors and the school to ensure the learning experience for students is optimal. At the end of each rotation, each student must evaluate and provide feedback about the preceptor, site, and rotation experience in CORE ELMS. The school does not share these evaluations with the preceptor until the end of the academic year and only in an anonymous,

aggregate fashion. However, the student is encouraged to share their feedback with the preceptor at any time.

To support the assessment, the student must provide comments of helpful feedback (professionally descriptive, specific, and sincere) to reinforce what was performed well, recommend improvements for future performance, and/or share other related comments. If low scores are submitted without comments, or if comments are unprofessional, the assessment will be unlocked to enable another opportunity for the student to submit professionally-worded comments the preceptor can actually use to improve future performance.

When completing the preceptors' evaluations online in CORE ELMS, students are encouraged to nominate worthy preceptors for Outstanding Preceptor Awards. In order for nominations to be considered, nominators must provide written comments to support the worthiness of the nomination. For more information, see Experiential Education Awards on page 11.

Incomplete or Failed Rotation

The preceptor must notify OEE in the event a student does not finish a rotation and/or assignments on schedule (e.g., the student has to make up days or complete a project). The final evaluation should not be completed until the student has accomplished all requirements of the rotation. A deadline for completion of the work will be set in writing by the preceptor and a copy provided to both the student and OEE. The preceptor will notify OEE if the work is not completed by this deadline.

Failure to fulfill the terms of completion of the rotation will result in failure of the course, which must then be repeated with a different preceptor and may delay graduation. In addition, failing professionalism results in failure of the rotation, regardless of the student's competencies evaluation. Two APPE failures may result in dismissal from the program.

Repeating a course/rotation with a different preceptor will be based on preceptor availability and any terms associated with the student's academic probation, medical leave of absence, or administrative leave of absence. The student must pass all three (3) IPPE rotations before advancing to APPEs in the P4 year, and must pass all eight (8) APPEs within two (2) academic years, or risk being dismissed from the program.

STUDENTS

Experiential Education Overview

Each student is required to satisfactorily fulfill the School's introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences (IPPEs and APPEs) throughout the curriculum to support the student's achievement of professional competencies, and to uphold the school's policies and responsibilities when gaining pharmacy practice experiences with preceptors at practice sites. Toward this end, each student is assigned annually to a region of the state. Always subject to preceptor availability, every effort is made to assign each student to a preferred region within Virginia for all or most rotations. In addition, every effort is made to assign each student to sites and preceptors free of circumstances or connections of potential bias that could adversely affect the student/preceptor relationship and the desired outcomes. Therefore, students are not assigned to sites where students have been or currently are employees, or to preceptors who are family members or who are past or current supervisors. Rotation assignments will be within a 70-mile+ radius of the student's housing; therefore, the student must be prepared to commute if necessary. All expenses for site-specific requirements, housing, transportation, parking, etc. for rotations are the student's responsibility. After rotation assignments are announced, the student must not contact a preceptor directly to attempt to arrange or change a rotation. Because of the complexity of rotation placements, all rotation scheduling must go through OEE.

Regions

A region is an area of the Commonwealth in which there are a sufficient number and variety of preceptors and sites to accommodate all of a student's required rotations. The current regions are Richmond, Charlottesville, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, and Roanoke. The southern area of the state is available by request. The list of cities and towns within each region is available from OEE and in the Document Library of CORE ELMS.

IPPE and APPE students are assigned to a region based on historical capacity of preceptors. Priority placements in a specific region assignment are made for students who:

- Complete the P3 year on the UVa Campus in the Charlottesville region
- Complete the P3 year on the Inova Campus in the Northern Virginia region

Subject to preceptor availability, special circumstances for a specific region assignment are considered for students with the following circumstances. Documentation may be requested.

- Own a home
- Have minor children in school
- Are under frequent medical care of a physician

Rotation Assignments

Procedures

1. Preceptor and site availability determine the number of IPPE or APPE students assigned to a region. Predictions are made annually.
2. Each student may change his/her region preferences from year to year.
3. Each year, each student ranks all regions in order of preferred (1) to least preferred (5).
4. CORE ELMS assigns the student's region using an algorithm that encompasses student preferences, curriculum requirements, and course/preceptor availability.
5. IPPE Assignments:
 - a. CORE ELMS assigns the student's IPPE using a Smart Match algorithm that encompasses student region preference, curriculum requirements, and course/preceptor availability constraints.
 - b. Once student-preceptor IPPE assignments are announced, changes are made only in circumstances when the preceptor or site becomes unavailable, or if there is a substantial problem that prevents the student from participating as scheduled. Documentation may be required.
6. APPE Assignments:
 - a. Students will be assigned the required 8 APPE rotations through the Office of Experiential Education. Students can arrange additional experiences on their off blocks or before or after their scheduled APPEs outside of the experiential education program.
 - b. All required rotations must be completed in-state or in the neighboring area of Maryland that is considered in-state.
 - c. Any rotation requiring an application is automatically classified as an elective. Applications are required for some APPEs such as FDA, Indian Health Service, Kaiser, and national pharmacists associations.
 - d. Elective rotations can be completed at approved sites anywhere in the world. Note that hours obtained from electives completed out of the country do not count towards total hours required by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to sit for the NAPLEX board exam.
 - e. Students select preceptor preferences in CORE ELMS for their rotations. OEE uses the unbiased algorithm in CORE ELMS to create a fair balance between student preferences and preceptor availability.
 - f. Free housing is available at a few sites for APPEs and is noted in the CORE ELMS Preceptor/Site Description when known.

- g. After students are given the opportunity to preference rotations, CORE ELMS assigns the students' APPEs using an unbiased Smart Match algorithm that encompasses each student's preceptor preferences, curriculum requirements, and course/preceptor availability constraints.
- h. P3 Satellite campus students receive preference for rotations over students coming to the region for the P4 year (per the VCU SoP Student Handbook). This does not mean that satellite campus students will receive all of their preferred rotations.
- i. Once student-preceptor APPE assignments are announced, changes are made only in circumstances when the preceptor or site becomes unavailable or if there is a substantial problem that prevents the student from participating as scheduled. With preceptor-driven changes, OEE provides reassignment options to the student for review and submission of preferences. OEE then works in order of the student's preferences to confirm preceptor availability and approval.
- j. When an APPE student wants to change a rotation, the student must submit a Rotation Change Request form describing the substantial problem that prevents the student from participating as scheduled. The request is reviewed and approved or denied by the OEE Committee, all decisions are final, and all parties are notified as appropriate.

Student Identification of New Rotation Sites

On occasion students may know of unique high-quality rotation sites that would be willing to offer student rotations. The following outlines procedures for submitting these requests to OEE. Note that site types of which there is plenty of existing capacity may not be considered.

1. Due to the difficulties associated with fulfilling affiliation agreements, pursuit of out-of-state and out-of-program practice sites for hospital facilities is not enabled.
2. Identifying new preceptors and practice sites requires special handling and processing by both the student and OEE. The student must submit a fully completed "Requesting APPE Rotations at New Site(s)" form, identifying contact information for the preceptor and site.
3. Before students can be assigned to new preceptors and sites, the usual initial quality assurance, preceptor faculty appointments, and fully executed affiliation agreements must be finalized through a process managed by OEE.

Student Rotations Contract

The **bold text** below identifies the Student Rotations Contract with VCU SoP. The contract is a summary of the student's responsibilities as fully articulated in this VCU SoP Experiential Education Manual. Every student is expected to sign and date the Contract, declaring he/she has read, understands, and will uphold the Contract. The signed and dated Contract is to be kept readily available by the student for related queries at practice sites. In addition, students are to upload the signed contract into their CORE ELMS profile. To augment understanding, regular text below provides additional insight and information about the Contract.

The Student Rotations Contract is an Agreement made between the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy (hereinafter the "School") and each student enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program (hereinafter the "Student"). Whereas, pharmacy practice experiences (aka rotations) are a required component of the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, the School has entered into affiliation agreements with practice sites and affiliate faculty/preceptors at those practice sites to train, guide, supervise, and evaluate Student performance relative to the learning objectives of each course/rotation. In turn, each Student is required to satisfactorily fulfill the School's explicit policies and responsibilities when gaining pharmacy practice experiences with preceptors in practice sites. This contract is a summary of the student's responsibilities as fully articulated in the VCU SOP Experiential Education Manual (CORE ELMS > Document Library), which every Student is expected to have read, understood, and uploaded to their CORE ELMS requirements profile.

1. PROFESSIONALISM: I will dress, speak, and act professionally and be actively engaged at all times, upholding the school's Attributes of Professionalism.

The Student must follow established school and site policies and must adhere to standards of dress and behavior specified by the preceptor and site. A clean short lab coat and a VCU nametag must be worn unless the site's policy directs otherwise.

Removal of the Student from the site and failure of the rotation can result from these infractions: breach of patient or site confidentiality; persistent display of disinterest and apathy; excessive tardiness/absences; plagiarism; inappropriate personal use of internet access, computer, or phone; an unprofessional act(s) deemed as such by the preceptor or authorities at the practice site.

2. PREREQUISITES FOR ROTATIONS: I will submit evidence of fulfilling all School requirements for rotations and any other requirements of the assigned site(s) by specified due dates. I understand that sites may decline to allow me on rotation if I have not fulfilled all requirements.

Prior to starting rotation(s), and in addition to passing required didactic courses in the curriculum, VCU requires Students to complete the following specific prerequisites:

Rotation prerequisites for all students due each spring:

- Background Check Report*
- Immunizations History Record: 3 Hep Bs + positive titer, Meningococcal, 2 MMRs, Tdap within 10 years, Varicella positive titer or 2 vaccines, plus biennial TST results (unless required annually by site)
- Student Rotations Contract (students sign the contract and upload a copy to CORE ELMS)
- Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) results, 2-step at admission or by P-2 year, and 1-step biennially each spring (updated in VCU Immunizations History record and uploaded to CORE ELMS), unless required annually by site
- Virginia pharmacy intern license for all students due each fall
- Certification of CPR BLS for Healthcare Providers w/live skills assessment from American Red Cross or American Heart Association
- Certification of Immunization Administration Training from APhA
- Influenza Immunization: Required of all students annually each flu season (P4 students must also ensure that their VCU Immunizations History record is updated and uploaded to CORE ELMS by October 1st)
- Health Insurance - students are required to maintain health insurance and to keep this information updated in CORE ELMS

*Successful completion of a background check is required for participation in rotations. Failure to have a clear background check report may prevent the student from successfully completing the clinical education requirements and, therefore, the program.

Students must upload documentation of completion of specified requirements as indicated to CORE ELMS by the announced due dates and maintain documentation for immediate retrieval upon the request of preceptors or other officials at the practice site. Any expenses for these requirements are the student's responsibility.

Recommended documents for all students each spring:

- Photo, head shot, professional attire, JPEG only (upload to CORE ELMS at the top of your home page by clicking on the camera icon)
- Resume/CV (update & upload to CORE ELMS; be sure to include IPPE and APPE experiences)

In addition to VCU's prerequisites for rotations, the Student must be attentive to any site-specific requirements that may be required prior to (1-6 months; varies by site) or at the start of each rotation. Examples:

- Agreements/Documents – e.g. confidentiality, conduct, ethics, substance abuse, etc.
- Contacting preceptor at each site's designated time prior to the rotation start day
- Drug Screen: 12-panel (OEE uses only 12-panel via Certiphi, even if the site requires only a 10-panel)
- Finger Printing
- Identification(s): photo IDs, social security number &/or date of birth
- Site Orientation: Prior to the rotation or at beginning of rotation
- Site-Specific Background Check
- Site-Specific Training: Computer, HIPAA, OSHA, Security, etc.
- Student name badge and white lab coat
- U. S. citizenship: Military sites exclude non-U.S. students and students with dual citizenship
- Other TBD

Successful completion of a drug screen is required for participation in rotations at some practice sites. Failure to pass the drug screen test may prevent the student from successfully completing that rotation assignment, and he or she may be subject to other sanctions according to VCU School of Pharmacy Substance Use Policy.

The site may decline to accept the student if he/she has not fulfilled the site-specific requirements by the due date imposed by the site. Consequently, the rotation may need to be rescheduled for the next available rotation block, and if applicable, may result in a delay in graduation.

Site-specific requirements, if provided to OEE by the site, are listed in CORE ELMS in Preceptor/Site Information: CORE ELMS > Scheduling > Rotation Schedule > click on the hyperlink to Preceptor/Site > click on Site Requirements.

3. ROTATION EXPENSES: I understand that I am responsible for all rotation expenses (e.g., housing, parking, transportation, etc.) and that I may need to travel 70+ miles to my rotations.

The student is responsible for all transportation to and parking costs at rotation sites. The student may need to travel up to 70+ miles to rotation assignments within the Student's region; therefore, the Student must be prepared to commute if necessary. The student must arrange his/her own housing for all rotations. Free housing is available at a very limited number of sites. The student must obtain information about parking from the preceptor prior to the start of the rotation. Transportation and parking expenses are the student's responsibility.

4. REMUNERATION: The Student must not receive any remuneration from the assigned practice site or preceptor.

5. CONTACT THE PRECEPTOR: I understand that I am required to contact each assigned preceptor at least two weeks prior to the start of my rotation(s) or as required by the site.

- a) Introduce yourself. Sending your resume will help the preceptor get to know you sooner.
- b) Identify any site-specific requirements (see item #2) that will be needed prior to or on the first day of the rotation, such as a drug screen, finger printing, health insurance, security documents, etc.
- c) Obtain specific instructions for the first day of the rotation, such as dress code, parking, arrival time, where to meet, reading assignments, etc.

- d) Request the preceptor's permission to be off for scheduled absences for employment and residency interviews, and arrange in advance to make-up missed time. Complete the Rotation Absence and Make-Up Time Report, found in the CORE ELMS Document Library, and submit to OEE@vcu.edu. Dean Bond will approve or deny; student then takes the signed form to the preceptor for review and final decision.

Students should contact OEE if they experience any difficulty in reaching the preceptor.

6. ROTATION PREPARATION, HOURS, AND ASSIGNMENTS: The primary objective of experiential rotations is learning. Therefore, as an adult learner, I will actively prepare for and be actively engaged in my rotation(s) to maximize my learning. I will fulfill the required number of hours and I understand that extended hours including evenings and weekends may be necessary. I will take assignments and deadlines seriously, as I know this is a measure of professionalism and maturity and I will adjust my outside working hours as needed to ensure rotation(s) are my first priority.

Prepare for each rotation by reviewing the syllabus/guide, class notes, disease states, therapy guidelines, top 200 drugs, medical terminology, calculations, motivational interviewing, assessment skills, etc., appropriate for each rotation. Satisfactory active participation, professional attitudes, communications, completion of assignments and duties, and evaluations are all required to fulfill both academic requirements and practice experience hours that will be submitted to the Board of Pharmacy for pharmacist licensure.

Further, the Student should expect to interact and work with other pharmacists, residents, technicians, and staff, whether or not the preceptor is available and/or when assigned to work with others. The Student should take advantage of these opportunities by learning about their responsibilities and experiences.

7. ATTENDANCE: I understand that leaving early or leaving the site during rotation hours without permission is not permitted. I will contact my preceptor(s) immediately in the event of unscheduled circumstances, such as illness, bereavement, traffic delays, failed alarms, etc. with the reason for my tardiness and my expected time of arrival. I understand that repeated absences may result in failure of my rotation. I also understand that I must follow the site's policy and decision to close for inclement weather, and not that of VCU.

In the event of inclement weather, the Student must adhere to the instructions of the preceptor and site. If the preceptor excuses the Student due to weather conditions, the time missed should be made up before the end of the rotation. The decisions of VCU to close due to inclement weather do not apply to the Student on rotations.

8. TIME AWAY FOR THE SCHOOL'S PREAPPROVED EXCUSED ABSENCES: I understand that I do not have to make up time away from rotations for the School's preapproved excused absences: A. Six (6) designated holidays that overlap with rotations (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Juneteenth, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day); B. Mandatory attendance required of the entire P4 class for a scheduled on-campus assembly; C. Optional attendance of the VCUSOP Employment/Residency Fair, 1 day or portion of the day; D. Attending a state, regional, or national professional meeting for 1-4 days varying by meeting and student, provided I have confirmed approval from the Dean's Office *at least 3 weeks prior to the event*. Reasons constituting excused absences are listed in the VCU School of Pharmacy Student Handbook.

Following guidance in the Student Handbook, the Student who wants to attend a professional state, regional, or national meeting must first submit an online Absence Request to the Dean's Office at least

three (3) weeks prior to the event, and secure prior approval for a specific number of days. The maximum number of days for pre-approved excused absences will vary from 1 to 4 (excluding Saturday and Sunday) for travel, and meeting attendance and will vary from student to student. The Student must inform their preceptor of actual and/or potential pre-approved excused absences well in advance when making initial contact with the preceptor at least two weeks prior to rotations. The Dean's Office notifies the Student and OEE of pre-approved excused absences, and OEE subsequently informs the preceptor.

Attendance during each assigned rotation period is mandatory. Time away from the rotation site for approved circumstances must be made up in order to fulfill the course requirements and Board of Pharmacy licensure requirements. The Rotation Absence Request & Make-Up Time form should be submitted to OEE@vcu.edu as above detailing the reason for missing rotation and how the time will be made up. The form is available in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Documents Library). Dean Bond will approve or deny; student then takes the signed form to the preceptor for review and final decision.

Chronic tardiness, chronic absences, and unexcused absences, as documented by the preceptor, will be reported to OEE and may result in failure of the rotation.

NOTE: If the Student receives a notification of jury duty while assigned to rotations, the student may contact OEE for a letter requesting exemption from jury duty in order to fulfill the requirements of the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

(See Absences and Tardiness During Rotations Policy on page 25.)

9. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY: I understand that Smart phones are not routinely used in all practice settings as a device for accessing pharmacy-related research and references. Therefore, I will seek permission from my preceptor(s) to use my personal Smart phone for pharmacy-related references and research.

10. INITIATIVE, DISCRETION, AND CONFIDENCES: I will take initiative in communicating and engaging with my preceptor(s), pharmacists, staff, other healthcare professionals, and patients, but I will not step beyond the realm of professional courtesy, common sense, or preceptor supervision. I understand that I should never publicly challenge the advice or directions of my preceptor(s), but should discuss any concerns or disagreements in private. I will respect any and all HIPAA confidences revealed during each rotation, including patient information, pharmacy records, fee systems, professional policies, etc.

If the preceptor does not provide an on-site orientation and a schedule, activities, and other documents pertinent to the rotation, the student should ask the preceptor for any available documents and clarification of expectations. Daily starting and stopping times are site-dependent, may include nights and/or weekends, and are determined by the preceptor. Students should examine the schedule and other documents and make sure they understand any special projects, reports, and evaluation procedures, and actively seek self-directed learning experiences when time permits.

Breach of patient or site confidentiality will result in dismissal from the site and failure of the rotation.

11. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY: When completing assigned rotations, I understand that I am covered for professional liability by the self-insured risk management plan of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, I may individually carry professional liability insurance.

12. HEALTH-RELATED EXPENSES: I understand that neither the School nor the practice sites will be liable for any medical expenses incurred by me participating in the program.

13. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; LAWS AND REGULATIONS: I will follow all policies, procedures, and requirements of each rotation site in addition to the policies, procedures, and requirements of the School of Pharmacy. I will obey all laws and regulations that govern pharmacy practice and seek clarification when I am uncertain.

14. EVALUATIONS: I understand that I am required to complete all rotation evaluations.

The Student is not to lobby the preceptor for a higher grade. Doing so may result in a reduction in the rating for Integrity and Trustworthiness and thereby affect the overall professionalism grade.

At the end of each rotation, the Student must complete the Evaluation of Preceptor, Site, and Rotation and the Professionalism Evaluation of the Preceptor. These evaluations are not shared with the preceptor until the end of the academic year and only in an anonymous, aggregate fashion. Both evaluations provide valuable feedback to the school.

15. INCOMPLETE AND FAILED ROTATIONS: If for any reason I cannot start a rotation, do not complete a rotation, or fail a rotation, I understand that I may have to wait until the start of the next regularly scheduled rotation cycle to complete or repeat that rotation. I understand that rotation assignment(s) will be based upon preceptor availability and any terms associated with any academic probation, medical leave of absence, or administrative leave of absence could delay my graduation. I also understand that failing two (2) APPE rotations may result in my dismissal from the program.

Delayed, incomplete, terminated, or failed IPPE rotations will block the Student's advancement to the next academic year, and the Student must pass all three (3) IPPE rotations before advancing to APPEs in the P4 year. Delayed, incomplete, terminated, or failed APPE rotations could delay the Student's graduation date and may result in the student incurring summer tuition charges. Any actual or potential delay in graduation must be discussed with the Office of Admissions and Student Services.

Final evaluations of rotations will not be submitted until all work assignments are satisfactorily completed. A deadline for completion of the work will be set in writing by the preceptor and a copy provided to both the Student and OEE. The preceptor will notify OEE if the work is not completed by this deadline.

Absence from a rotation due to illness that will compromise the completion of the rotation must be referred to the Associate Dean of Student Services for consideration of a medical leave of absence from the rotation.

Termination and failure of the rotation can result from these infractions: an unprofessional act deemed as such by the preceptor or authorities at the practice site; breach of patient or site confidentiality; persistent display of disinterest and apathy; excessive tardiness; excessive absences; or inappropriate personal use of internet access, computer, or phone. If you have a challenging situation on rotation, contact OEE right away for assistance.

Repeating a course/rotation will be based upon preceptor availability and any terms associated with the Student's academic probation, medical leave of absence, or administrative leave of absence.

16. ROTATION CHANGE REQUESTS: I understand that after rotation assignments are announced, I cannot contact a preceptor to attempt to arrange or change a rotation. I understand that changes are made only when the preceptor or site becomes unavailable, or if the OEE Committee approves a Rotation Change Request that I submit describing my substantial problem that prevents participation.

Once student-preceptor assignments are announced, changes are made only in circumstances when the preceptor or site becomes unavailable or if there is a substantial problem that prevents the Student from participating as scheduled. With preceptor-driven changes, OEE provides reassignment options to the Student for review and submission of preferences. OEE then works in order of the Student's preferences to confirm preceptor availability and approval.

It is inappropriate for the Student to contact a preceptor directly at an affiliated practice site to attempt to arrange or change a rotation. Because of the complexity of rotation placements, all rotation scheduling must go through OEE. (Students may identify potential new preceptors/practice sites and submit their information on OEE forms. Before students can be assigned to new preceptors and sites, faculty appointments by and affiliation agreements with the University must be finalized through a process managed by OEE.)

When the Student wants to change a rotation, the Student must submit in writing a Rotation Change Request form describing the substantial problem that prevents the Student from participating as scheduled. The request is subject to review and approval or denial by the OEE Committee, all decisions are final, and all parties are notified as appropriate.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The overall process for Quality Assessment and Assurance includes analysis and follow up on assessment information, direct observation through visits, information from site coordinators, monitoring of objective board of pharmacy information, and input from advisors. The specific measures used to ensure quality of the program include the following items.

Preceptor Evaluations of Students – Each preceptor evaluates each assigned student. Each IPPE student evaluation is tied to the learning objectives of the IPPE and grading is based on defined scores for Honors, High Pass, Pass, and Fail. Each APPE student evaluation is tied to the school's learning outcomes and professional competencies and behaviors, and grading is based on defined scores for Honors, High Pass, Pass, and Fail. At the end of the academic year, metrics are analyzed in aggregate for trends and common themes and reported to the faculty.

Student Evaluations of Preceptors - Each student evaluates each assigned preceptor using a variety of questions about the preceptor, site, and rotation experience, with responses ranging from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 4 = Strongly Agree. Each student also evaluates the preceptor's professionalism, with responses of 3 = Satisfactory, 2 = Needs Improvement, or 1 = Unacceptable. Anonymous, aggregate evaluations are shared with each preceptor at the end of the academic year and discussed with the preceptor as warranted.

The Senior Administrators and Associate Dean review evaluations at the conclusion of each rotation block. Particular attention is directed to low scores of both student evaluations by preceptors and preceptor evaluations by students. Low scores are reviewed with the Associate Dean for Experiential Education and/or the OEE Committee as warranted. The most compelling concerns may subsequently be communicated with the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean of Student Services, and/or the Dean before actions are taken.

When a student low score is received, the assessment data is analyzed and one of four actions taken:

None: Issue is found to be acceptable for the student's circumstances at this time in their professional development. OEE will not contact the student at this time.

Monitor: Issue warrants the student to be monitored in subsequent rotation(s) to determine if a pattern is revealed. Student may be contacted.

Intervene: Student is contacted to discuss issue and plan for improvement.

Remove: Student is removed from the preceptor/site. The student may be reassigned or terminated from the rotation, depending on the circumstances.

When a preceptor/site low score is received, the assessment data is analyzed and one of five actions taken:

None: Issue is found to be a singular event or personality conflict within that specific rotation. Preceptor/Site is still in good standing and will continue to receive students.

Monitor: Issue warrants the site to be reexamined after subsequent rotations when more data is available.

Investigate: Past evaluations are used to review past performance of preceptor/site. Phone calls are made to determine if any underlying causes could be contributing to issues.

Intervene: Meet with preceptor to discuss issue and resolution.

Remove/Inactivate: Assigned students are removed from the preceptor or site and preceptor or site is made inactive.

Aggregate IPPE and APPE reports: OEE provides annual aggregate reports regarding each year's IPPE and APPE student evaluations to the DPOS, Curriculum Committee, and Outcomes & Assessment Committee. Highlighted are lowest competency and professionalism scores by preceptors' assessments and students' self-assessments, most frequently reported "N/A" competencies, and common themes in written comments.

Preceptor Licensure Monitoring reports: The written record of each preceptor's initial application permanently retains the review of their board of pharmacy licensure status. Subsequent ongoing and routine monitoring is performed to ensure that the licensure status of each preceptor and pharmacy where students are assigned is valid, current, and in good standing. OEE conducts a quarterly review of Virginia board of pharmacy notices, orders, and actions against Virginia's pharmacists/preceptors and pharmacies, whether or not students are assigned, and an annual review of out-of-state preceptors/pharmacies to whom students are assigned in the upcoming academic year. For historical evidence of compliance with this monitoring process, OEE retains documentation of these reviews of both in-state and out-of-state licensees for a period of ten (10) years.

Student Surveys: Exit surveys conducted annually by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) of graduates are reviewed and discussed for overall programmatic trends, and discussed with Outcomes & Assessment Committee as needed. Periodic surveys are conducted by VCUSOP to address specific issues.

Preceptor Surveys: Conducted at least every other year by AACP for VCUSOP. Reviewed and discussed for overall programmatic trends; discussed with school officials as warranted. Periodic surveys are conducted by VCUSOP.

Site Visits - Site visits are conducted both for initial evaluation of new preceptors and sites, at regular intervals for quality assurance every 2 years, and if concerns are identified warranting more frequent

visits. Visits that cannot be done in person can be conducted virtually. Information is gathered and documented by OEE using a site visit form. Used for new sites, annual visits, and as warranted by concerns identified when following QA procedures.

Experiential Advisors/Focus Groups: Used as needed to provide feedback based on survey results and program needs. A rotating variety of preceptors are asked to advise OEE about various aspects of the experiential education program, including the syllabi, evaluation forms, online education management system, preceptor training/development programs, newsletter content, etc. Advice of the full-time faculty and preceptors is sought on specific matters such as patient care criteria and requirements, CPR training criteria, and differentiation of acute care general medicine from acute care medical specialty relative to the curriculum.

Consortium Collaboration

VCU is one of eleven schools in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Washington, DC that together comprise the MidAtlantic Experiential Education Consortium (MEC). The goal of MEC is to advance quality experiential education. Objectives are to: 1) promote experiential education standardization that conserves resources and optimizes processes; 2) provide networking opportunities for experiential personnel within the MEC region; and 3) develop scholarly activities as academic citizens. Quarterly meetings are scheduled: 1.5-hour conference call meetings in the spring and fall, and 5-hour live meetings in the summer and winter.

Discussion and collaboration include:

- IPPEs/APPEs: descriptions, simulation, standardized dates
- Students: evaluation forms, remediation
- Preceptors: application, training and development, evaluation, recognition, retention
- Sites: standardized site visit forms, frequency of visits
- Policies and procedures: professionalism, social media, holidays, absences, professional meeting attendance
- Education management system issues (most have CORE ELMS)
- Scholarship opportunities
- For the good of the order

Standardized APPE Timeframes

APPE 5-week timeframes are standardized with other schools of pharmacy in Virginia and some other MEC schools for the benefit of the shared preceptor pool. The first APPE rotation block starts on the 3rd Monday in May and the 7th rotation block starts on the 2nd Monday in January. (effective August 2011)

Quality Improvement Actions

The outcome of all these quality assurance procedures leads to improvements in the experiential education program, such as targeted interventions and enhanced communications to students (individuals and classes) and preceptors (individuals and all), and possible changes to the curriculum.

SYLLABI, FORMS & TOOLS

The following documents are available for ready access in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Document Library) and on OEE's website (<http://go.vcu.edu/oeo> > IPPE/APPE).

Syllabi/Guides

- PHAR 530 Community IPPE Syllabus and Guide
- PHAR 532 Hospital IPPE Syllabus and Guide
- PHAR 533 Patient Care IPPE Syllabus

- PHAR 760 Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 761 Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 763 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 765/766 Elective I/II APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 767 Clinical Selective Pharmacy Practice APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 768 Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice APPE Syllabus
- PHAR 773 Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II APPE Syllabus

Evaluations

- APPE Evaluation
- IPPE Community Evaluation
- IPPE Hospital Evaluation
- APPE Student Feedback
- IPPE Student Feedback

POLICIES

Absences and Tardiness During Rotations

Attendance during each assigned rotation period is mandatory except for pre-approved excused absences as described below. Illnesses, employment, potential job or residency interviews, bereavement, inclement weather, family/personal events, traffic delays, failed alarms, or other absences or tardiness do not take priority over rotation assignments. If the student is unable to attend required rotation hours and responsibilities because of such circumstances, the Student must notify their preceptor immediately or ahead of time when possible, and for each day they will be absent. Time away from the rotation site for such circumstances must be made up in order to fulfill the course requirements and Board of Pharmacy licensure requirements. (The Rotation Absence & Make-Up Time form is available in in CORE ELMS (www.corehighered.com/login-elms.php [log in] > Document Library).

In the event of inclement weather, the Student must adhere to the instructions of the preceptor and site. If the preceptor excuses the Student due to weather conditions, the time missed should be made up before the end of the rotation. The decisions of VCU to close due to inclement weather do not apply to students on rotations.

Chronic tardiness, chronic absences, and unexcused absences, as documented by the preceptor, will be reported to OEE and may result in failure of the rotation.

Time away from rotations for pre-approved excused absences does not have to be made up. Pre-approved excused absences are granted for four (4) purposes only:

1. Six (6) designated holidays that overlap with rotations: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Juneteenth, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day. The days preceding and following the holiday are regular rotation days. As will occur in practice as a pharmacist, the Student may be asked to work on the actual holiday and be off on another day. (Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall during the winter break when no rotations are scheduled.);
2. Mandatory attendance required of the entire P4 class for a scheduled on-campus assembly;
3. Optional attendance of the VCU SoP Employment/Residency Fair, 1 day or portion of the day; and
4. Attending a state, regional, or national meeting for 1-4 days varying by meeting and student, provided the Student has written approval from the Dean's Office at least 3 weeks prior to the event. (See Attendance at Professional Meetings While on Rotation, below.)

Attendance at Professional Meetings While on Rotation

Students are encouraged to participate in the activities of professional organizations, and if in good

academic standing, may receive a pre-approved excused absence from the Dean's Office to attend a meeting of a professional pharmacy organization.

If the student wants to attend a professional state, regional, or national meeting, the student must first submit an online Absence Request to the Dean's Office (according to guidance contained in the Student Handbook) and secure prior approval for the excused absence for a specific number of days. It will be considered a violation of the Honor Code to make false or misleading statements on the Absence Record form. The maximum number of days for pre-approved excused absences will vary from 1 to 4 (excluding Saturday and Sunday) for travel and meeting attendance and will vary from student to student. In addition to seeking the pre-approved excused absence from the Dean's Office, the student should request their preceptor's permission to attend the professional meeting when contacting the preceptor at least one month prior to the rotation.

The student will provide a copy of the approved Absence Record form to the preceptor if requested. Students are not required to make up these pre-approved excused absence days for attending professional meetings; however, time missed to attend professional meetings will be deducted from the Student's internship hours reported to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

If the Student does not secure a pre-approved excused absence to attend the professional meeting, then the time missed to attend the meeting must be made up.

Attributes of Professionalism

The following describes the attributes of professionalism expected from students, faculty, and staff in the School of Pharmacy.

Scholarship & Commitment to Excellence: Actively engaged; demonstrates strong work ethic; strives to exceed minimum requirements; punctual; prepared; conscientious; seeks additional knowledge and skills

Accountability & Initiative: Accepts personal responsibility; demonstrates reliability and follow-through with commitments in a timely manner; accountable for his/her performance; recognizes limitations and seeks help when necessary; addresses individuals who demonstrate unacceptable behavior

Self-Growth & Self-Care: Commits to life-long learning; seeks and applies feedback for improvement; sets and achieves realistic goals; maintains personal health and well-being; avoids harmful behaviors

Responsibility & Sense of Duty: Contributes to the profession; provides service to the community; follows established policies

Compassion & Respect for Others: Displays empathy; considerate; cooperative; sensitive; respectful of different socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural traditions, values and belief systems; avoids promoting gossip & rumor; respects authority

Integrity & Trustworthiness: Demonstrates high degree of integrity, truthfulness, and fairness; adheres to ethical standards; maintains confidentiality

Teamwork & Professional Demeanor: Interacts effectively with others; listens and communicates effectively; willing to assist others; flexible; nonjudgmental; controls emotions appropriately; inspires trust; carries oneself with professional presence

Concern for the Welfare of Patients: Treats patients and families with dignity; respects patient privacy; advocates for patients; places patients' needs above their own; promotes a culture of safety.

Blood-Borne Pathogen Exposure During Experiential Education

Policy: Students enrolled in the VCU School of Pharmacy shall adhere to all OSHA Blood-borne Pathogens Standard requirements and consider an exposure to blood and/or body fluid as a medical urgency for evaluation by a specially trained health care practitioner.

Background: Exposure to blood-borne pathogens may occur with any experiential learning activity in the Smith Building, the facilities of the VCUHS and Clinics or beyond the MCV campus (e.g., facilities in the community, the government, or the industry).

Procedures:

1. If a student experiences a blood or body fluid exposure, they should:

- a. Immediately wash the site for 5 minutes with soap and water or flush eyes with normal saline or tap water for 15 minutes (remove and discard contact lenses)
- b. Report the injury to a supervisor
- c. Obtain a medical history on the source patient and have blood specimens drawn: HIV, Hepatitis B surface Antigen, Hepatitis C antibody & Hepatic panel. (Previously drawn labs are acceptable if dated in the past 30 days; the source patient's verbal assurance of being disease free is not acceptable in any situation.)
- d. Contact or go to VCU Student Health, 828–9220, 1000 East Marshall, room 305 (Student Health will always be available for consultation. Students rotating at locations away from MCV campus should receive initial evaluation and testing at the away site via arrangements made prior to rotation by the Program's Director.)
- e. Complete incident report form (as appropriate for each location)

2. Students Enrolled in the University Student Health Services Exposed to a Potential Blood-borne Pathogen from a Source Patient at VCUHS or Affiliated Ambulatory Clinics

In the event of an accidental exposure to blood or body fluids (e.g., needle stick, blood or body fluid contamination to a cut or scrape, mucous membrane exposure) during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the student should report to the University Student Health Services. If the exposure occurs after hours or the weekend or holidays, the student should contact the Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Team via pager (dial *60, then dial 4085 and leave call back number; if outside VCUHS, dial 804-828-4999, then dial 4085 and leave call back number) or visit the VCUHS Emergency Room.

A member of the PEP Team will contact the student to assess the injury and provide appropriate counseling. The PEP Team will work with area personnel to assure that appropriate laboratory tests are obtained from the source patient. The exposed student is then to be followed by the University Student Health Service, at the earliest possible opportunity (i.e., the next business day) for additional counseling and baseline laboratory tests. Additionally, if the student does not provide results of serological testing from the source patient, he or she will be instructed how to do so. Verbal reports will be accepted.

3. Students assigned to the Inova campus on a full-time basis are required to obtain health insurance and thus should obtain an immediate evaluation by the health care provider associated with his or her health plan.

4. Students Enrolled in the University Student Health Services Exposed to a Potential Blood-borne Pathogen from a Source Patient Outside VCUHS and Affiliated Ambulatory Clinics

In the event of an accidental exposure to blood or body fluids (e.g., needle stick, blood or body fluid contamination to a cut or scrape, mucous membrane exposure), the student must notify the Associate

Dean for Experiential Education (804-828-3059) or the Office of the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services (804-828-3000). If located within an hour of the University Student Health Services, the student should adhere to the procedures for MCV campus students. If located beyond an hour of the University Student Health Services, the preceptor at the site will assist the student in obtaining treatment and having the source patient tested. The VCU School of Pharmacy will pay for the initial laboratory testing of the student and the source patient if the student does not have health insurance. The VCU School of Pharmacy will also pay for emergency treatment of the student, if necessary, before the student is able to return to the University Student Health Services.

5. Expense Associated with Exposure Incidents

All medical evaluations and procedures are available at no cost to any student who has paid the University Student Health Service fee, as a requirement of registration. Serological tests conducted on source patients at VCUHS and Affiliated Ambulatory Clinics will not be the financial obligation of the student. Serological tests and emergency treatment conducted outside VCUHS and Affiliated Ambulatory Clinics are not considered the responsibility of the University Student Health Service. These expenses will be handled on an individual basis by the VCU School of Pharmacy for students registered in academic course work. Students will be responsible for paying for all subsequent non-emergency personal post-exposure laboratory testing and treatment if services are not obtained at the University Student Health Services.

Inova Health System's Exposures Control Plan

General Guidelines:

- Use needleless systems and other safety engineered devices
- Work practice controls
- Never shear, break, bend, or recap contaminated needles/sharps
- Never recap except in cases when recapping is required by the procedure -- use one-handed technique
- Sharps Injury Log – Data collected regarding date, time, type of sharp, etc. to research and determine if event could have been prevented and/or effectiveness of safety device
- What to do if exposed – Refer to Inova Exposure Information Line (703) 664-7500 for specific facility guidelines
 - Do not panic
 - Wash site immediately
 - Flush with water
 - Do not use bleach
 - Report immediately
 - Exposures do not always lead to infection
 - Risks of contracting infections
 - HBV 6-30%, 1 in 6
 - HCV 2-10%, 1 in 20
 - HIV 0.3%, 1 in 300
- Follow safe work practices – exposure can be prevented
- Inova's Exposure Control Plan is located in the Human Resources Manual – Policy #7008
- Copies of Inova's Exposure Control Plan and the OSHA Blood-borne Pathogen Standard can be made available to employees upon request
- Resources available for interactive questions and answers
 - Department Directors and Supervisors
 - Employee Occupational Health Services Personnel
 - Infection Control Practitioners
 - Infectious Disease Physicians

Additional policies and statements may be found at: <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus>

1. Campus emergency information
2. Class registration required for attendance
3. Honor System: upholding academic integrity
4. Computer and network use
5. Important dates
6. Managing stress
7. Mandatory responsibility of faculty members to report incidents of sexual misconduct
8. Military short-term training or deployment
9. Student email standard
10. Student financial responsibility
11. Students representing the university – excused absences
12. Students with disabilities
13. Withdrawal from classes
14. Faculty communication about students