

Why Should I Do a **Residency?**

We often get questions from pharmacy students about the importance of doing residencies. There are so many reasons, but the best have to do with learning how to apply the knowledge and skills you've learned in school to real patients, situations, and settings.

During your residency, you will get the chance to work with patients as part of an interdisciplinary team, sharpen your critical thinking skills, and learn the subtleties of leadership. You will also be exposed to different facets of practice and learn about the many and varied career paths available to pharmacists today.

The experiences you have as a resident just can't be found in the classroom or during undergraduate experiential training. They are unique to residencies, and help set you apart from your peers as you go forward in your career.

So, read on to learn more about why you should do a residency. There really is no substitute for this wonderful experience!

— *Janet Teeters, M.S., Director, ASHP Accreditation Services*
Former resident, University of Minnesota Hospitals & Clinics



“Do a residency! Residencies provide unique opportunities to explore different aspects of pharmacy as a licensed practitioner. No other training allows a pharmacist to gain vast amounts of experience in such a short period of time.”

— *Brian Cohen, Pharm.D.,*
former resident, University of
Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City

Why Should I Do a **Residency**?



Answers and Insights
about Pharmacy
Residency Training

What Will a Residency Do for Me?

Gets you the job:

- Allows you to qualify for positions that require residency training, a growing trend in hospitals and health systems.
- Provides flexibility & adaptability to change during your developing career path.
- Distinguishes you from other Pharm.D.'s.

Gets you the promotion:

- Most pharmacists in faculty, management, or clinical roles have completed a residency.

Provides networking opportunities:

- Find mentors.
- Expand your resource base.
- Provide future job opportunities.

Helps you achieve your professional vision:

- Plan your career.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Find out what you're interested in by practicing in a variety of settings.

Questions, Questions, Questions...

How many pharmacists do residencies?

Over 1,500 per year

Where are these residencies?

Over 800 programs across the U.S. in hospitals, clinics, and community practice or managed care settings.

How long is a residency?

Typically 1 year

When can I do a residency?

Anytime, but most pharmacists participate during the first year after graduation

Do residents get paid?

Yes! They receive a variable stipend, and often receive healthcare and other benefits.

What will I do during a residency?

- Practice as a pharmacist,
- Complete a resident project,
- Possibly precept students,
- Give educational talks, and
- Work on other projects per residency requirements.

What is "The Match"?

All accredited residency candidates must participate in ASHP's Resident Matching Program ("The Match"), which pairs residents and appropriate residency programs.

What is the difference between a PGY1 (Post-Graduate Year 1) and PGY2 (Post-Graduate Year 2) residency?

PGY1 residencies provide training for "generalists" in health systems, managed care, or community settings.

Note: You must complete a PGY1 (general practice) residency before going on to a PGY2 (specialized) residency.

PGY2 residencies provide advanced training in a focused area of patient care (see fact sheet in the back of this brochure for more information).



"Pharmacy school imparts theoretical knowledge, but residency training teaches you how to apply that knowledge. It gets you to think more critically and to connect the dots."

—Han Truong, Pharm.D., a 2006-2007 resident at United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn.

I'm Considering a Residency. How do I Decide?

By talking to:

- Faculty members and mentors,
- Pharmacists in multiple practice areas,
- Current residents,
- Fellow classmates, or
- New practitioners in the ASHP Networking Forum

Before 4th year:

- Begin developing ideas and making a list of prospective sites to talk to during your 4th year.
- Visit the Residency Showcase at ASHP's Midyear Clinical Meeting.

- Be respectful of the programs' time. Program staff are interviewing residents for the next year.

During 4th year:

- Attend ASHP's Midyear Clinical Meeting to:
 - Visit the Residency Showcase and talk with program directors, preceptors, and current residents, and
 - Line up and participate in interviews with a select number of residency programs through ASHP's Personnel Placement Service (PPS).

What Else Should I Know?

Where to apply is sometimes an overwhelming decision. Take some time to develop a list of your needs and desires.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- Program design, including core requirements and flexibility,
- Program setting,
- Specialty areas available,
- Type of patients served, including acute care, minority, ambulatory, indigent populations, etc.
- Options, such as teaching, investigational drug studies, public health initiatives, etc.



- Whether PGY2 training is also available onsite, and
- Personal preferences such as location, benefits, number of residents, etc.

Still have questions?

Visit www.ashp.org, email us at asd@ashp.org, or call ASHP's Accreditation Services Division at 301-657-3000.

Suggested Timeline for Last Year of School

September

- Draft CV and cover letter.

October

- Sign up for ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (www.ashp.org), and
- Register for ASHP's Personnel Placement Services (PPS) (www.pps.ashp.org).

November

- Research programs,
- See ASHP online residency directory at www.ashp.org,
- Develop questions for MCM,
- Ask people to begin to write letters of recommendation for applications, and
- Sign up with National Matching Services (www.natmatch.com/ashprmp).

December

- Attend MCM and participate in the:
 - Residency Showcase, and
 - PPS.
- Fill out applications.

January

- Applications due!**

February

- Interview with sites that have extended an invitation.

March

- Early March:* Turn in your ranking with National Matching Service.
- Late March:* Match with a site.

July

- Begin residency!**

What Types of Residencies are Available?

Postgraduate Year 1—or **PGY1**—residencies provide training for “generalists” in health systems, managed care, or community settings.

Postgraduate Year 2—or **PGY2**—residencies provide advanced training in a focused area of patient care, including:

- Ambulatory care,
- Cardiology,
- Critical care,
- Drug information,
- Emergency medicine,
- Geriatrics,
- Immunology,
- Infectious diseases,
- Informatics,
- Internal medicine,
- Managed care pharmacy systems,
- Nuclear pharmacy,
- Nutrition support,
- Oncology,
- Pediatrics,
- Pharmacotherapy,
- Practice management or administration,
- Psychiatry, or
- Transplantation.

Note: You must complete a PGY1 (general practice) residency before going on to a PGY2 (specialized) residency.

For more information on the types of residencies available in programs across the U.S., check www.ashp.org.



Why is ASHP Accreditation Important?

A SHP-accredited residency programs meet rigorous national training standards and have been reviewed by expert site survey teams.* Conversely, unaccredited sites provide no assurance or guarantee that residents will be exposed to experiences that further their own professional goals. Accredited residency programs:

- Voluntarily submit to outside review by experts in their area of practice,
- Are committed to excellence in training,
- Must continually improve their training and services, and
- Have received an ASHP seal of approval, which ensures that residents participate in a quality training program meeting core outcomes required by the accreditation standard.

ASHP partners with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) to accredit community pharmacy residencies, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) to accredit managed care pharmacy residencies, and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) to promote the number of accredited programs available.

All programs that are accredited or have applied to be in the accreditation process can be found in the **Online Residency Directory** at ASHP's Web site, www.ashp.org.

Note: When applying to a new residency program, ask the program director or preceptor if they intend to apply for ASHP accreditation. If you choose to participate in a new program that is or will be applying for accreditation, you could have a unique opportunity to help shape and develop that program.

*ASHP, which is the only organization that accredits pharmacy residency programs, has been providing this service since 1962.

What is “The Match”?

All applicants to an ASHP-accredited post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) or specialized post-graduate year 2 (PGY2) residency program must now apply through the Resident Matching Program, or “The Match” (www.natmatch.com/ashprmp).

This program, which levels the playing field for all potential residents, requires applicants and residency programs to concurrently rank their preferred sites and applicants, respectively. This gives all programs and candidates equal amount of time to complete their interviews and make their selections. The Match then lines up the best placements between candidates and programs based on their list of preferences.

Ask your favorite sites if they participate in The Match. A few programs such as military sites and public health programs may be exempt due to the additional requirements of being a commissioned officer. Some new programs seeking their first resident also may not participate in The Match.

As you start your residency planning, keep in mind the following:

- To apply for an ASHP-accredited pharmacy practice residency, you must sign up for The Match with the National Matching Service (NMS) at www.natmatch.com/ashprmp.
- After applying to The Match, be sure to send the appropriate application and non-refundable payment to the NMS. *(Please note that fees for ASHP’s Personnel Placement Service do not include fees to participate in The Match.)*
- When you participate in The Match, you must apply *directly to the programs in which you are interested* and complete the requirements of those individual programs. That is because the application process for actual residency programs differ from that used for The Match.
- Programs make no offers during the interview period. After all interviews are completed, applicants and programs submit Rank Order Lists on which preferences are stated. The Match then places individuals into positions based solely on the preferences stated in the Rank Order Lists. *Note that all candidates and programs receive information about the matching process at the same time in March.*
- NMS also offers information about positions still available after The Match, if you do not match.
- Finally, Match accommodations can be made for significant others who are both looking for pharmacy residencies, or a medical residency and pharmacy residency.



Why Should I Join ASHP?

As a student member of ASHP, you can be in two places at once: In school and well on your way to a rewarding career! As a member of the largest national organization of hospital and health-system pharmacists—with more than 30,000 members and a 60-year record of leadership, influence, and accomplishment—students get all benefits at **85% off standard dues**, including:

- Expert guidance in education and career planning from pharmacy leaders and mentors,
- The ability to network with peers on campus, in state societies, and within a community of 9,000 ASHP student members,
- Access to great jobs, residencies, and internships through ASHP CareerPharm™ and ASHP CareerPharm's Personnel Placement Service (PPS),
- Free memberships in the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum and Section memberships in the areas of practice that interest you most,
- Generous discounts on Society publications, software, and registration for the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and ASHP Summer Meeting,
- Many opportunities to enhance your clinical and leadership skills,
- A free subscription to the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*™, and
- Access to ASHP's free student e-mail, NewsLink.

Want to know more? Visit the Student Section of ASHP's Web site, www.ashp.org; contact your school's ASHP faculty or student liaison; call ASHP headquarters at 301-657-3000; or email students@ashp.org.



What is the Difference Between ASHP's Residency Showcase & PPS?

The **Residency Showcase**, which takes place during ASHP's annual Midyear Clinical Meeting, offers applicants a chance to meet informally with residents, program directors, and preceptors from prospective sites. These are not set interviews; rather, they are informal interactions that allow you to ask questions and find out more information about the programs in which you are interested. Keep in mind the following:

- The Residency Showcase takes place on **Monday (1-4 p.m.)** and **Tuesday (8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.)** during the Midyear.
- Programs are listed by training site rather than by the specific type of residency training program offered.
- Each time block features different programs. So, make sure you find out the exhibit times and dates for the programs in which you are interested (these can be found on the ASHP Web site at www.ashp.org).
- The Residency Showcase is included in the cost of meeting registration.

The **ASHP Personnel Placement Service** (PPS) is an optional service provided at the Midyear Clinical Meeting that allows applicants to schedule one-on-one interviews with residency program directors and preceptors. PPS also includes interviews for fellowships and regular pharmacy positions, so make sure you search for jobs related to *residency program postings*. PPS is the in-person component of CareerPharm™, an ASHP career resource that also includes an online job board (www.careerpharm.com), and classified advertising in *AJHP*. Keep in mind the following:

- PPS is helpful if you are looking at multiple programs across the U.S. to determine if you want to invest the time and expense of going out for a formal interview.
- Additional fees are required to participate in PPS; fees do NOT include Resident Matching fees (*see information on The Match elsewhere in this packet*).
- Employers in PPS are recruiting for PGY1 and PGY2 residents but not all programs participate. There are also many fellowship and other pharmacy positions. *Be sure to register by the early cutoff date to receive the best rate and only apply for the appropriate listings.*
- Many programs schedule their interview times prior to the Midyear Clinical Meeting and continue to search for candidates while onsite. Interviews are typically conducted in 30-minute increments from Sunday through Wednesday.
- Only participate in PPS if you are seeking an actual position and are in your last year of pharmacy school.

Note: Even if you have participated in the Residency Showcase and/or PPS, you still may be required to do an on-site interview as part of the residency program hiring process.