

Shadowing Program
University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy

WHAT WE DID:

Objectives

The objective of this program is to allow students the opportunity to shadow clinical pharmacists in various practice settings in an effort to promote health systems pharmacy and their roles in practice. The students are matched with pharmacists in selected specialties of their choice and participate in activities such as rounding and patient counseling at the discretion of the advisor. The expected outcomes were to broaden the understanding of what a health system pharmacist is and provide the student an opportunity to experience potential practice settings.

Plan and Execution

Selected student leaders of the Colorado Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSSHP) contacted faculty members in as many specialty fields as possible, explained the program to them and requested their participation. The program was described as a shadowing opportunity for students and depending on the participation by faculty, each preceptor would be matched to 10-15 students. The faculty members were given full discretion as to what activities they would have students participate in but were encouraged to have students participate in activities such as rounds, patient counseling and patient monitoring. Once matched, students were instructed to contact the faculty member and arrange a date that was convenient for both the professor as well as the student. Students and professors were encouraged to allot 3-4 hours for the event and limit 1-2 students to each shadowing session in order to maximize the experience. The areas of participation included Cardiology, Critical Care, Diabetes Clinic, Family Medicine, Geriatrics, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Oncology, Outpatient Internal Medicine with a focus on Cardiology/Cardiometabolic Disease. Students ranked their preferences and were matched to their first or second choice in most cases. A total of 123 students were matched to 15 difference faculty members in 9 different specialty areas.

Outcome

The program has received tremendous recognition and response. Both the students and professors have been enthusiastic about the experiences that have taken place and are confident that this program is going to continue to expand and grow. Additional faculty members have demonstrated interest in participating next year and are impressed at the outcome currently. Students will continue to shadow their matched professor throughout the year depending on their clinical schedule and obligations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Contact faculty members in various specialties and explain the program and request participation.
- Use your SSHP faculty advisor to help build contacts and enthusiasm for the program.
- Start with a reasonable expectation for participation and expand the program each year.