Introduction to Experiential Education
Midwestern University
College of Pharmacy-Glendale

Welcome to the Midwestern University College of Pharmacy Experiential Education Program! Thank you for joining our team of pharmacy practice educators by becoming a preceptor to our students. Your role in our students’ education is crucial to their success as they develop the skills and knowledge required to become quality patient care providers.

Mission and Vision

The Vision of the College of Pharmacy

The vision of Midwestern University College of Pharmacy-Glendale is to excel in pharmacy education.

The Mission of the College of Pharmacy

The mission of MWU-CPG is to prepare pharmacists who will provide exceptional patient care, participate in critical inquiry and scientific research, and advance public health and wellness.

Our core values are Excellence, Integrity, Professionalism, and Service and Collaboration. We work to achieve and maintain the highest standards in all our endeavors. We value honesty, ethical decision-making, and caring. We encourage respect for others, accountability to our stakeholders, and responsibility for one’s actions. We are committed to working with other academic, community, patient and professional organizations to foster collaboration for the improvement of the public health and society.

Midwestern University proudly maintains a reputation for providing quality meaningful experiential learning opportunities for its students that meets the standards established by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Greetings from the Dean

As a preceptor for MWU-CPG, you play a vital role in the education of future pharmacists. You volunteer your time and expertise and we could not be successful as a College in our educational efforts without you. I consider our preceptors the unsung heroes of our profession. We are deeply indebted to you for your efforts. Whether you provide an Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) or an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE), our students benefit greatly from your mentoring. Thank you to you and all of our preceptors for the essential role you play in advancing the pharmacy profession.
The Critical Role of the Preceptor

Why are preceptors so important? And why does our need for quality educators and solid clinical sites continue to grow?

As a part of their early education (between years one and two of the professional program), Pharm.D. candidates will spend 320 hours in actual pharmacy sites observing and practicing the art and science of pharmacy in a variety of settings. This is the segment of experiential education referred to as the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE). The final year of the professional program is spent involved in Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) – four required rotations (Health Systems, Acute Care, Ambulatory Care and Advanced Community Practice) and two elective rotations (any of the required rotations, specialty or non-patient care) all six weeks in duration. The advanced rotations provide 1440 hours of practical pharmacy experience.

With more than 30% of the total curriculum focused on experiential education, the role of the preceptor in pharmacy education is of paramount importance. With this focus, the need for experienced professionals to share their skills and experience is great. We have preceptors assisting us from the immediate Phoenix-Metro area and around the country. We express our most sincere thanks to you for being a part of our important network of educators.

A key role of a preceptor is to serve as an evaluator of student performance. Accurate assessment of a student’s work is key to their development and success and also required for the college’s accreditation. There are two formal assessment periods in a pharmacy rotation, the mid-point evaluation and the final evaluation. The mid-point evaluation serves to identify areas of focus for the remainder of the rotation.

The Mission of the Office of Experiential Education

The mission of the College of Pharmacy-Glendale Office of Experiential Education (OEE) is to provide the students with quality rotation experiences that provide positive, challenging environments to enhance the student’s professional knowledge and skills in order to prepare them to be caring and competent pharmacists.

About our program

Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE)

During the summer between the first and second didactic years students participate in Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences, or IPPEs, which integrates didactic course work with experiences in real practice environments. The requirements are one rotation block in an ambulatory care setting.
(community pharmacy, compounding pharmacy) and one in an institutional setting (traditional hospital, long-term care setting, or home infusion). These blocks are 4 weeks in length. The experiences are designed to the technical and professional practice skills needed to be effective in various practice environments. The foundation established during the IPPE rotations leads to success in the advanced practice setting to be completed in the final year and in practice beyond graduation. Serving as a preceptor for early experiential students can be an excellent stepping stone for advanced rotations and an extremely rewarding experience.

To avoid confusion as to what a preceptor can expect from a student on an IPPE rotation, we have outlined the curriculum of the first didactic year.

**Basic sciences** – physiology, biochemistry, molecular biology & genetics, microbiology, and immunology

**Pharmaceutics** – Pharmaceutical calculations, compounding, pharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics, and biopharmaceutics

**Social and Administrative Science** – health care systems, pharmacy law & public policy, and public health & disease prevention

**Professional Skills Sequence** – top 200 drugs, OTC & self-care, communication skills, tertiary & secondary drug information

**Pharmacotherapy** (pathophysiology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, and therapeutics) – nutrition, autonomic nervous system, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and endocrine systems

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)

The third and final year of the professional program is spent completing advanced practice experiences: four required (Health Systems, Acute Care, Ambulatory Care and Advanced Community Practice) and two elective rotations (any of the required rotations, or any other specialty or non-patient care rotations). Students are encouraged to choose elective experiences that will not only enhance their knowledge deficits, but also increase exposure to practice areas of interest. All rotations are six weeks in duration. Midwestern supports rotation experiences in the Phoenix-Metro area and across the country.

A significant difference exists between the IPPE and APPE rotations. In the APPE rotations, students are expected to problem solve, tackle challenging patient situations, use their pharmacotherapy knowledge to make appropriate recommendations, and then communicate their recommendations with clarity and confidence. The IPPE rotation focuses on basic exposure to pharmacy practice, drug distribution, communication skills within the team and simple patient interactions.
Teaching resources

Midwestern is proud to be utilizing the Collaborative Education Institute (CEI) for preceptor education and development. Participation in this online education forum is free of charge to MWU-CPG affiliated preceptors. This program has ACPE approved Continuing Education credits designed specifically for preceptor education and development. We encourage all preceptors to take advantage of this resource to enhance their skills both as educators and as pharmacy professionals.

Pharmacist’s Letter provides many excellent resources for preceptors. As a preceptor, you may access these resources, free of charge. If you currently have a membership to Pharmacist’s Letter, simply click on the Preceptor Home link at the left of the page. If you do not have a subscription, go to pharmacistsletter.com, click on home, and then click on preceptor home. You will be given instructions on how to access the preceptor resources from that page.

You will find a variety of resources by logging onto the Midwestern Intranet home page and choosing the support services tab. http://mwunet.midwestern.edu/

It links to the library resources with many on-line pharmacy sites. The Rotation Management System (RMS) is the source for rotation information and includes your students and their profiles, the dates of the rotation and the midpoint and final evaluation forms. Provided below are the rotation manuals for both IPPE and APPE students

IPPE Manual:

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APPE Manual:


The Office of Experiential Education also provides two preceptor workshops annually, in January and in July. The staff is also happy to meet with individuals on a one-to-one basis for assistance in creating an exceptional rotation site and to help the preceptor hone skills.

At the conclusion of the academic year, each preceptor will be given their evaluations from students about their experience on rotation. This information may be helpful to see the rotation experience from the students’ perspective and troubleshoot potential rotation problems in the future.

Performance Assessment

MWU-CPG utilizes RMS, or Rotation Management System, for all pertinent rotation, student, and preceptor information. This is also where evaluations will be documented. The first time you attempt to utilize RMS, and any time you experience difficulty logging in, please contact our office for help.
The evaluation forms are listed on page 39-53 of the IPPE manual and on 43-55 of the APPE manual. Please note that receiving a grade of “Unacceptable” in any of the professionalism components will result in a final grade of F. In addition, receiving a grade below a C in any of the skills assessment rubric categories (Provision of Safe and Effective Care, Patient Communication, and Professional Communication) will also result in a final failing grade.

We acknowledge that your time is very valuable and we thank you for the time spent on providing constructive, helpful, and meaningful evaluations to our students. The students look forward to hearing the formal critique of their performance on rotation.

For APPE rotations, the mid-point evaluation is due the Friday of week three and the final evaluation is due the Friday of week six. For IPPE rotations, the mid-point evaluation is due the Friday of week two and the final evaluation is due the Friday of week four.

Contact Information

Thank you for your important contribution to pharmacy education. Our success is dependent up on the service of dedicated practitioners and we sincerely appreciate your willingness to share your expertise. For more information or to answer questions regarding Midwestern University College of Pharmacy – Glendale Experiential Education Program, please contact us at:

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