

PGY2 Specialty Residency: Psychiatric Pharmacy



William S Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital Madison, Wisconsin

The purpose of the Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency program is to build upon PGY1 residency training and provide residents opportunities to gain experience and practice in advanced psychiatric specialty patient care. The Madison VA program was established in 2009 and is accredited by ASHP. Three residency positions are available. Residents rotate through three 4-month long focused blocks: Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), Outpatient Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders, and Inpatient Psychiatry. Electives are available in many specialized areas and can be tailored to fit residents' goals and interests. Residents provide direct patient care services and are active members of interdisciplinary teams. In addition, they can obtain a scope of practice with prescribing authority. Teaching opportunities exist through adjunct clinical faculty positions at the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Pharmacy. Upon program completion, residents will be prepared for psychiatric board certification and to obtain positions as psychiatric clinical pharmacist practitioners providing advanced patient care in specialized positions.

PGY-2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Residency Application Process

Applicants must be a graduate of an ACPE accredited school of pharmacy with a PharmD degree, must be a US citizen, and must participate in a formalized standardized interview. They must have completed or be currently completing a PGY1 residency program (accredited or in accreditation process) or a training experience deemed equivalent by ASHP and be in good standing. Applicants must hold a pharmacy license in any state or US territory prior to the expected start of the PGY2 program. COVID19 vaccination (or obtain an approved accommodation) is required by VA. Desired applicant characteristics include an aptitude and strong interest in mental health, knowledge of professional practice, good communication skills, the ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, alignment with the goals and experiences of our program, confidence, and personal and professional maturity. Application deadlines can be found in the ASHP Residency Directory listing (program code 45005). Applicants are required to complete their application through PhORCAS and include the below materials:

- Personal letter of intent
- (3) PhORCAS References
- Curriculum vitae
- Official copy of pharmacy school transcript(s)
- [VA form 10-2850D](#) (Application for Health Professions Trainees)

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

The Madison VA Hospital & Clinics strive to create a culture that is welcoming, equitable, fosters a sense of belonging and advocates for all voices to be heard. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or identity, you are welcome here. You belong here.

"I enjoyed learning from many skilled preceptors in this residency. The variety of experiences helped prepare me for clinical practice as a psychiatric pharmacy practitioner"
- Former Resident

Program Contacts



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PGY2 Psychiatric Pharmacy Residency

Learning Experience Descriptions

Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) - Required - 4 months

PCMHI services are located at the West Madison and East Madison outpatient clinics and serve as the point of contact for mental health needs identified in primary care. PCMHI clinicians provide brief therapy and medication management services for mental health conditions of mild-moderate severity. They also refer patients to the specialty mental health clinic when appropriate. Residents serve as a member of the interprofessional training team consisting of psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, and other mental health trainees. During this block residents also complete clinical projects, and spend one-half day each in harm reduction, outpatient mental health continuity clinic and geriatric psychiatry intake clinic.

Outpatient Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders - Required - 4 months

Residents will complete outpatient medication management appointments to provide evidence-based patient-centered treatment for a variety of chronic mental health and substance use conditions in all degrees of complexity. Specialty areas residents will be exposed to include tobacco cessation, buprenorphine treatment, contingency management, bipolar disorders, neurologic disorders, psychotic spectrum disorders, and transgender care. Residents will work with a variety of pharmacist, psychiatrist, nurse practitioner, and social work preceptors in this setting to observe modeling of different patient interviewing and group facilitation styles. Resident responsibilities and independence will progressively increase at a pace determined by both the resident and preceptors. Residents will gain experience performing psychiatric interviews and developing patient rapport, working on interdisciplinary teams, triaging clinical duties, developing and implementing therapeutic plans, providing medication counseling, and documenting patient care activities. Residents will also work with preceptors to co-facilitate patient education groups including Biology of Addiction and Relapse Prevention.

Inpatient Psychiatry - Required - 4 months

Residents work with both psychiatrist and pharmacist preceptors to provide comprehensive inpatient psychiatric care to a small panel of patients (usually 2-3 at a time). Residents are responsible for patient interviews and assessments, treatment planning, order entry, and medication reconciliation for their patient panel. Residents participate in daily rounds and serve as members of the interdisciplinary team. They work with other trainees including psychiatry residents, medical students, and pharmacy students. Residents will participate in clinical topic discussions with the team, and facilitate a medication patient education group on the inpatient unit. Additional opportunities include involvement with the Treatment Refractory Major Depression (TRMD) Clinic to assess patients for treatment with ketamine, ECT, TMS or additional psychotropic medication changes.

Residency Research Project - Required - Longitudinal

The inverted research model is utilized and residents are involved in planning, implementation, and evaluation of results across two separate projects. Residents typically complete the first in-progress project and the associated manuscript by January, and then initiate a second project to hand off to a new resident the following year. Residents may present project posters at ASHP Midyear, the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) Annual Meeting and/or the Wisconsin Pharmacy Residency Conference in the spring of their residency year.

Interprofessional Education Seminar (IPE) - Required - Longitudinal

This interprofessional didactic seminar occurs approximately every other Friday afternoon throughout the training year and covers a wide variety of mental health topics. Presentation facilitators include psychiatry and therapy providers. Attendees include pharmacy, psychiatry, social work, psychology, and nursing trainees. Pharmacy residents will also receive motivational interviewing (MI) training and opportunities to practice and receive feedback on their MI skills. Residents will participate in Naloxone Outreach Events to increase naloxone prescribing.

Elective Experiences

One pain-focused elective required; may select 2 others in addition to teaching opportunities

- ◆ Academic Detailing
- ◆ Community Support Program (CSP) for serious mental illness
- ◆ Epilepsy
- ◆ Mental Health Administration and Leadership
- ◆ Neurology
- ◆ Interdisciplinary Pain Clinic
- ◆ Inpatient Pain Stewardship and Consult Service
- ◆ Pain/SUD
- ◆ Sleep Clinic
- ◆ Substance Use Disorders in Primary Care
- ◆ University of Wisconsin-School of Pharmacy Teaching Opportunities (pharmacotherapy lab, lectures, psych elective)
- ◆ Primary Care Medication Management
- ◆ Home Based Primary Care
- ◆ Heart Failure
- ◆ Other opportunities can be created based on resident interest and preceptor availability

Additional Opportunities

- Residents may attend the ASHP Midyear Conference as well as the AAPP Annual Meeting (optional). Funding dependent on facility fund availability.
- Residency mentorship program for resident professional and personal development (required).
- Opportunities to present at facility mental health journal club or national VA resident journal club (one required).
- Monthly involvement in the facility Professional Advancement and Leadership Series (PALS) program (required).
- Apply for and maintain a scope of practice (required).
- Regular meetings with the RPD & RPC for support and to check in on progress for meeting ASHP residency requirements (required).
- Observation of TMS or ECT (optional).
- Participation in National VA Pain or Substance Use Subject Matter Expert (SME) workgroups (optional and based on SME needs).
- Layered learning precepting opportunities of PGY1 residents and/or APPE or intern pharmacy students (required).