

# VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System

## Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) - Pharmacy



**Core Values: I CARE**

**Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence**

**Characterized by being:**

**Trustworthy, Accessible, Quality Oriented, Innovative, Agile, & Focused on Integration**

**VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System  
6900 North Pecos Road  
North Las Vegas, NV 89086  
(702) 791-9000**



**VA  
HEALTH  
CARE**

Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

### **About VASNHS**

The VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHS) provides a broad spectrum of ambulatory and inpatient services as part of VA Sierra Pacific Network (Veterans Integrated Service Network - VISN 21). The VASNHS serves Veterans in seven counties including Clark, Lincoln, Nye, and Esmeralda in Nevada; Washington County in Utah; Mohave County in Arizona; and San Bernardino County in California. Recent consensus projections place the Veteran population of these counties over 240,000. There are a total of 25 facilities which make up the VASNHS. The sites are located in Las Vegas, Henderson, and Pahrump, Nevada. The majority of the facilities are located in metropolitan Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, Nevada.

In August 2012, VASNHS proudly announced the opening of a one-million square-foot comprehensive medical center in North Las Vegas. This new facility is a 90-bed hospital with a 120-bed Community Living Center (CLC). VASNHS provides health care services to nearly 50,000 unique patients annually. In addition, four new primary care clinics complement the medical center by providing superior patient-centered care to Veteran patients. As southern Nevada is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, services provided by VASNHS will continue to expand to meet the demands of the dynamic growth.

### **About the VALOR Program**

The VALOR student will complete a minimum of 400 hours in various parts of pharmacy services (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, clinical, administration). The VALOR students will be appointed on a full-time or part-time basis during the summer months and may continue during their final academic year on a part-time basis if needed.

We recommend having the VALOR students work 40 hours per week for 10 weeks, which may be completed during the summer, and/or during the “off block”. However, if the VALOR students are unable to commit to a 40 hour work week, the VASNHS VALOR program coordinator may evaluate the circumstances and adjust the schedule to tailor to the VALOR student’s school of pharmacy program curriculum (traditional vs block programs) as deemed appropriate. The initial 400 hours must be completed by September 30, 2016. Additional hours (up to 400 hours) may be granted after the fiscal year (FY). However, approval for the VALOR program beyond the end of FY 2016 is contingent on the allocation of centralized funds.



## VALOR Curriculum

- **Week 1: Orientation and Computer/Outpatient Training (40 hours)**
  - The VALOR students will undergo facility and pharmacy department's orientation at the start of the program. Once computer access is granted, the VALOR student will complete Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture (VISTA), and other technological/system training followed by operational pharmacy training.
- **Week 2-4: Outpatient Pharmacy (120 hours)**
  - The VALOR students will work with pharmacy technicians and/or clinical pharmacists to develop skills in prescription review, dispensing, medication counseling, and medication distribution system in the outpatient pharmacy.
- **Week 5-7: Inpatient Pharmacy (120 hours)**
  - The VALOR students will work with pharmacy technicians and/or clinical pharmacists to develop skills in prescription review, dispensing, medication counseling, and medication distribution system in the inpatient pharmacy. The VALOR students will also participate in IV admixture, medication reconciliation, discharge counseling, kinetic monitoring, and inpatient anticoagulation as assigned.
- **Week 8-10: Clinical/Administrative Pharmacy (120 hours)**
  - The VALOR students will work with clinical pharmacy technicians, pharmacy residents, and/or clinical pharmacy specialists to gain experience in disease state management (e.g., anticoagulation, diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, tobacco cessation), formulary management (e.g., non-formulary drug review, drug shortages, conversions), administrative tasks, and others as assigned.
- **Longitudinal**
  - The VALOR students will be assigned project(s) and/or presentation(s) during the course of the program.

## Evaluations

- The VALOR program coordinator or designee will meet with the VALOR students at the beginning, midpoint, and end of the program to identify and assess the participant's goals, interests, and performance in the program. To continuously improve the overall program structure, the VALOR students and preceptors will have opportunities to provide constructive feedback throughout the program.
  - The VALOR students and preceptors will complete an evaluation at the end of each block
  - The VALOR students will complete a final evaluation at the end of the program

## Benefits

- Hourly wage of \$20.31 per hour (\$8,124 per 400 hours)
- Build communication, patient-care, and clinical skills through individualized mentorship from some of the brightest, most compassionate clinicians in practice.
- Professional networking opportunities
- Learn about the VA health care system: the largest integrated health care system in the U.S.

### Program Eligibility

- Must have completed the second\* professional year in an Accreditation Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited Doctor of Pharmacy program (*\*Must have completed the first professional year if attending a 3-year PharmD program*)
- Must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Must be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours as a pharmacy VALOR student at VASNHS by **September 30, 2016**
  - Applicant must submit their available hours
- Must be a United States citizen
- Must meet physical examination standards at the time of entry in the Pharmacy VALOR program

### Application Requirements

- Application (VA Form 10-2850D)
- Declaration of Federal Employment (OF-306)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Official college transcripts
  - Applicants from Pass/Fail programs must have a recommendation from the Dean or Director of the academic program regarding the student's academic achievement and provide an official class rank.
    - Recommendation and class rank must be emailed directly from the Dean or Director of the academic program to the VASNHS Pharmacy VALOR Coordinator ([meeta.patel@va.gov](mailto:meeta.patel@va.gov)).
- A letter from the Dean/Director of the School or College of Pharmacy
  - The letter should include the following: A nomination of the student to the VASNHS Pharmacy VALOR Program; verification of enrollment as a full-time student (as defined by the school); successful completion of the second year of pharmacy education by the time the student enters into the program; and anticipated graduation within 2 years after entry in the Pharmacy VALOR program.
- A letter of intent indicating career goals and objective for seeking a VALOR program
- A proposed work schedule based on availability
  - Must complete using the provided VALOR schedule template and must be able to complete a minimum of 400 hours by September 30, 2016

**\*\*Application must be mailed (postmarked) or emailed directly to Meeta Patel ([meeta.patel@va.gov](mailto:meeta.patel@va.gov)) by March 31, 2016**

### Contact information

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