

Office of Professional Pharmacy Education
Practice Experience Questions and Answers

June 17, 2008

How are experiential education courses organized at the School of Pharmacy?

Experiential learning is learning that occurs at the practice site, where the student is intellectually and physically engaged in professional activities with real consequences. The purpose of experiential education is to help the student increase knowledge, develop skills, and clarify values. Experiential learning should build a bridge between the information learned in school and the practice environment.

Our experiential curriculum includes the following courses:

PHARM 526 *Introductory Pharmacy Practicum* (formerly PHARM 305, *no longer available*)

PHARM 527 *Introductory Community Pharmacy Experience, 4 cr* (formerly PHARM 335, required course for all students)

PHARM 528 *Introductory Institutional Pharmacy Experience, 3 cr* (formerly PHARM 336, required course for students who entered the school in the class of 2011 and later)

PHARM 529 *Experiential Learning, variable cr* (formerly PHARM 478, elective course, under faculty supervision, pharmacy students gain experience working on advanced practice projects, in a pharmacy practice setting, prior to the final year of the pharmacy program.

PHARM 574 *Introductory Clinical Practicum* (required course for third-year students)

PHARM 575, 576, 577, 578 *Advanced Practicums* (required courses for fourth-year students)

PHARM 577 *Advanced Practicum* (required course for External PharmD students)

What is the difference between a “clerkship,” a “practicum,” a “rotation,” and a “practice experience?”

Classes that take place in the practice environment are often referred to as practicums (or practicals), experientials, rotations, externships, or clerkships; it is probable that you will hear your preceptors refer to your practice experiences using one or more of these words. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) now uses the terms Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE), but you may consider these terms interchangeable. IPPEs occur in the first three years of the curriculum while APPEs are fourth-year experiences. Internships are employment (paid) experiences independent of the School.

May I be paid for this experiential learning?

Our ACPE accreditation standards state that, “Students must not receive remuneration for any pharmacy practice experiences (introductory or advanced) for which academic credit is assigned.” This means that you may not complete the competencies for PHARM 527 or 528 at your work site while you are being paid.

If you choose to complete the competencies for either PHARM 527 or PHARM 528 at your work site, you must avoid conflicts of interest (see below).

Do different classes have different requirements for experiential learning?

Yes, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences will be phased in.

If you are in the class of 2009 you have completed all required early experiences (PHARM 335 and 574).

If you are in the class of 2010 you must complete PHARM 527 (PHARM 335) and PHARM 574.

If you are in the class of 2011 or later you must complete PHARM 527, 528, and 574.

APPEs are increased to 9 months of experiences for the class of 2009 and later.

If you change your graduation year, you will complete the courses required for students who began the professional program at the same time you did.

How do I identify a site and register for an early practice experience?

PHARM 526 *Introductory Pharmacy Practicum* (elective)

No longer offered.

PHARM 527 *Introductory Community Pharmacy Experience* (required)

You will also need to visit <http://oppe.pharmacy.washington.edu/PracticumSite/SiteHome.lasso> and you will enter your UW NetID and PIN in order to submit an online request for placement. On the next web page, click the link titled “View Information about Your Introductory Practice Experience.” Click on the Pharmacy 527 link “Click here to See or Enter a Request for Placement.” Follow the instructions on the web page that appears to submit your formal request for placement.

After submitting the request for placement, the Office of Professional Pharmacy Education will select an appropriate site (which may be one in which you indicate your interest), confirm the placement, and register you for the class. You will receive an email confirming site placement. The course syllabus is at <http://depts.washington.edu/pharmopp/practicum.htm>. The Office of Professional Pharmacy Education (OPPE) will register you for this class in the quarter after you submit your completed competencies (unless you did the competencies at your work site).

PHARM 528 *Introductory Institutional Pharmacy Experience* (required)

You will also need to visit <http://oppe.pharmacy.washington.edu/PracticumSite/SiteHome.lasso> and you will enter your UW NetID and PIN in order to submit an online request for placement. On the next web page, click the link titled “View Information about Your Introductory Practice Experience.” Click on the Pharmacy 528 link “Click here to See or Enter a Request for Placement.” Follow the instructions on the web page that appears to submit your formal request for placement.

After submitting the request for placement, the Office of Professional Pharmacy Education will select an appropriate site (which may be one in which you indicate your interest), confirm the placement, and register you for the class. You will receive an email confirming site placement. The course syllabus is not yet available. The Office of Professional Pharmacy Education (OPPE) will register you for this class in the quarter after you submit your completed competencies (unless you did the competencies at your work site).

PHARM 529 *Experiential Learning* (elective)

This experiential elective will be developed between you and your instructor/preceptor.

What are the requirements to take a practice experience course?

Practice regulations and affiliation agreements require you to be prepared to safely learn to provide patient care. Before you can leave begin a School-sponsored practice experience, we must have on file several items such as,

- A photocopy of your HIPAA completion certificate.
- A photocopy of your immunization certification from Hall Health
- A photocopy of your intern license(s).
- A photocopy of your CPR and/or first aid cards.
- A photocopy of your background check.
- A signed insurance form.
- A signed guidelines document.
- A current résumé.

Some of these documents have expiration dates or have periodic requirements in order to be “current.” All of your paperwork must be current in order for you to begin, and continue in, a School-sponsored practice experience.

You **must** collect and keep current copies of your license, your CPR/first aid cards, the background check, HIPAA completion certificate, and your Hall Health immunization form. You

will take all of these to the site the first day of each practice experience, just in case you are asked for any of this information. Some sites will ask, some will not. Some sites might request this information even before you arrive on site.

When I visited the experiential site web portal I noticed there is a link to an online résumé. What is its purpose?

A résumé is required for APPEs and will eventually be required for IPPEs and its purpose is to introduce you and your professional experience to the preceptor. Preceptors read these and make decisions about your background and what the site may be able to offer you.

This is confusing. Can you summarize it for me?

Yes, it is difficult to understand this. This table might help:

Your Graduating Year	Your IPPE Requirement
2009 & 2010	PHARM 527, 4 cr No PHARM 528 requirement PHARM 574, 1 cr Nine months of APPEs (PHARM 575–578)
≥ 2011	PHARM 527, 4 cr PHARM 528, 3 cr PHARM 574, 1 cr Nine months of APPEs (PHARM 575–578)