

San Francisco Health Care System PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program FAQ's

Q: It is possible to use 1 application to apply to all 3 programs?

A: No, each of the PGY1 residency programs has a separate application process and match number.

Q: Can I apply to all 3 programs or should I only apply to one?

A: This is an individual decision. If you are sure that you want to commit all electives to ambulatory care (or geriatrics) then you may choose to apply to a focus program only. If you are not sure about committing your electives to one area, the PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Program without a focus would be the best choice. If you are flexible with electives and desire to complete a PGY1 residency at VA San Francisco regardless of focus area, you may apply to all 3 programs and then rank (or not rank) the 3 based on your interest.

Q: How do you schedule interviews if I apply to more than one PGY1 program at your site?

A: We interview all program applicants by the same process and will note if applicants have applied to more than one program. If you are invited to an interview, only one interview date will be scheduled if you applied to multiple programs.

Q: Is there a special form you require as part of the letter of recommendation?

A: No, we use the template that is available in PhORCAS.

Q: Do I need to include in my CV details of current AND future Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)?

A: Yes, your CV should include details of completed rotation activities, anticipated future rotations, and any teaching or community service activities. So that we may better understand your clinical experience, please include details regarding activities and responsibilities for completed AND anticipated rotations. For rotations that have not yet been completed (anticipated), you can include expected activities and general structure (rounding, face-to-face or telephone clinics etc.)

Q: Must I be a U.S. Citizen at the time I apply for the residency program?

A: Yes, you must be a U.S. Citizen when you apply. We cannot consider applicants who are in the process of obtaining citizenship; you must be a U.S. citizen.

Q: Who should I ask to write letters of recommendation?

A: Please ask individuals who can address the qualities such as academic ability, communication skills, leadership, initiative, and motivation, cooperativeness and ability to work with others, dependability, willingness to accept constructive criticism, and weaknesses. At least one of the letters should be written by a preceptor who has worked directly with you in a patient care experience.

Q: Does the application deadline refer to when the application must be received?

A: Yes, the application deadline refers to the date the application is due to PhORCAS. Please be mindful of time zones when submitting applications.

Q: Why is the deadline earlier than most programs?

A: The residency application process is a busy and stressful time for applicants, as well as preceptors and program directors. Our Residency Advisory Committee has chosen an earlier application deadline in order to decompress what is a very stressful time. An earlier date provides more time for our team to fully review all applications prior to selecting applicants for interview, decreases the burden on applicants and reference writers during winter break and faith-based holiday seasons and hopefully avoids many of the delays with transcripts and Registrar Office response time during the winter break.

Q: What if I can't submit a current transcript by the application deadline?

A: Given challenges with obtaining transcripts in December, the submitted transcript does not need to reflect most current APPE rotation. For our program, grades are a small part of the holistic review process and transcripts will primarily be reviewed to determine if the applicant has progressed in core classes and is in good standing for anticipated graduation or has already graduated. It is recommended to request transcripts well in advance of the application deadline. If there are transcript submission delays, please notify the residency program director so that the application can still be considered for holistic review.

Q: What are the requirements for pharmacist licensure during the residency year?

A: Residents are required to obtain a pharmacist license by October 31st of their residency. For VA residencies, residents may obtain a license in any state and are not required to become licensed in California for the residency program. Residents should schedule their NAPLEX exams as soon as possible after graduation to start the licensure process.