



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.
School of Pharmacy

Information for PGY1 & PGY2 Specialty Pharmacy Residents



Changing lives. One Veteran at a time.

Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System
4500 S. Lancaster Rd., Dallas, TX 75216
www.northtexas.va.gov

VA Core Values & Characteristics



Core Values and Characteristics that apply universally across all of VA have been approved and were announced by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on June 20, 2011. These core values are the basic elements of how we go about our work – they define “who we are” – and form the underlying principles we will use every day in our service to Veterans. The Core Characteristics define “what we stand for” and what we strive to be as an organization. The I CARE model represents VA’s value of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence and core characteristics of providing Trustworthy, Accessible, Quality, Innovative, Agile and Integrated care.

Our Ethical Code of Conduct

VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) is committed to “Changing lives. One Veteran at a time.” by providing quality medical services to Veterans and to act as responsible health care providers in the community. We demonstrate this responsibility through ethical business and Veteran care operations as defined by our mission, values, strategic business plans and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) regulations.

VA North Texas

VANTHCS is a progressive health care provider in the heart of Texas. Poised as VA's second largest health care system, we serve more than 117,000 Veterans and deliver 1.4 million outpatient episodes of care each year to Veterans in 38 Texas counties and two counties in southern Oklahoma. We have about 5,000 employees and 1,700 community volunteers who are driven by the passion to serve our Veterans.

VANTHCS provides comprehensive health services through primary, tertiary and long-term care in many areas like medicine, surgery, mental health and rehabilitation. Our 853-bed system has a [Spinal Cord Injury Center](#), Domiciliary Care Program and Community Living Center with a dedicated hospice unit. In 2009, a [Fisher House](#) was established on the Dallas VA campus to provide no-cost temporary lodging in a home-like setting for families of Veterans or active duty military personnel undergoing treatment at the facility.

Recognizing the importance of educating tomorrow's clinicians, we have an important teaching mission providing education and experience to about 1,900 residents, students and trainees. As a major research center, VANTHCS has more than 90 principal investigators and 400 research staff who work to create advances in our understanding and treatments of diseases and disabilities that affect Veterans and the general population.

Remarkable gains in clinical performance, access to care, stakeholder relationships, efficiency and quality are evident here. The most noteworthy accomplishments that signify these advancements include:

- Recognized by the National Center for Patient Safety in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013 with the VA Patient Safety "Gold Cornerstone" Award for outstanding achievement in identifying, analyzing and resolving patient safety issues.
- VHA Systems Redesign Champion - 1st Place Award in 2010 for significant improvements in patient throughput.
- Became the first VA facility to perform implantation of vBloc, a technology-based, scientifically advanced weight loss therapy.
- Boast world-renowned researchers such as Dr. Alina Suris, who received the prestigious George Winokur Award for studies focusing on new treatments for PTSD; Neurologist Dr. Aryn Habib, who identified a cell mechanism that plays an important role in brain cancer and may provide a new therapeutic target; Dr. James LePage, who created an online vocational program for incarcerated Veterans with mental illness; Endocrinologist Dr. Roger Unger, a member of the National Academy of Sciences who was awarded the 2014 Rolf Luft Award for discovery of glucagon as a pancreatic hormone that raises blood sugar levels; Interventional Cardiologists Dr. Subhash Banerjee and Dr. Emmanouil Brilakis, who led VA North Texas to become the first VA hospital certified to perform transcatheter aortic valve replacement and the first VA to perform the Mitraclip procedure for mitral valve repair; and Gastroenterologists Dr. Stuart Spechler and Dr. Rhonda Souza, whose pioneering and sustained research have led VA North Texas to world recognition as a center for the study of esophageal diseases.
- Activated the first Homeless Mobile Health Unit in the Nation to provide Veterans living on the streets with both medical and mental health services.
- Awarded the 2010 Robert W. Carey Excellence Award from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- 2010 VA Engineering Green Building Initiative (green globe) award and recognized by VA's Green Building Initiative for achievements in sustainable energy and reducing environmental impact.

Progressive and growing, the Pharmacy Service offers state-of-the-art robotics and medical information systems, and includes more than 40 clinical pharmacy specialists who provide pharmacy services in a variety of specialty areas. There is ample opportunity for advanced practice pharmacists to develop innovative and advanced patient care practices in collaboration with this talented medical staff.

Texas Tech School of Pharmacy

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1993, the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy is part of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Founded upon the idea that tomorrow's pharmacists must be independent thinking and technologically advanced, all education and training use problem-based learning techniques with a strong emphasis on computer literacy. All course materials are maintained on the School's World Wide Web servers. With the main campus located in Amarillo, the school offers a state-of-the-art facility with high tech, online classrooms. Regional campuses are located in Abilene, Dallas/Ft Worth, and Lubbock.

Established in 1999, the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional campus has two sites, one located on the Dallas VAMC campus and the other within the central Dallas Medical District. Approximately 16 full-time and 25 adjunct clinical faculty, as well as 4 distance-learning classrooms in DFW, support the education and training of more than 140 students in their last 2 years of pharmacy school and 7 PGY1 and 7 PGY2 residents. Residents are actively involved in didactic and clinical teaching and help facilitate Pharm.D. students in acquiring problem-based learning skills.

Residency Programs

- PGY1 (1 year program)
Program Director: Cynthia Foslien-Nash, PharmD
- Critical Care PGY2 (1 year program)
Program Director: Steven Pass, PharmD, FCCM, FCCP, BCPS
- Ambulatory Care PGY2 (1 year program)
Program Director: Lisa Chastain, PharmD, BCACP
- Geriatrics PGY2 (1 year program)
Program Director: Amie Blaszczyk, PharmD, CGP, FASCP
- Mental Health PGY2 (1 year program)
Program Director: Monica Mathys, PharmD, CGP, BCPP

Pharmacy residents are based at the Dallas VAMC and are affiliated with the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy. There is ample opportunity to be involved in patient care, education, management and research. Residents are required to complete a research project, present at a regional and state meeting and submit a manuscript suitable for journal publication by the end of the residency.

Requirements

- Graduate of accredited school of pharmacy
- Hold active Texas pharmacy license or be eligible for licensure in Texas
- Candidates for any Specialty Residency must have completed PGY1 Residency
- Candidates for PGY1 Residency must be U.S. citizen

Application Information

- Application due dates:
PGY1 – January 6
Specialty – January 6
- Upload these application materials to PhORCAS:
 - ✓ Three letters of reference
 - ✓ Letter of Intent
 - ✓ Curriculum Vitae
 - ✓ Pharmacy School Transcripts

Salary & Benefits

The annual stipend is \$43,000 - \$47,000. Benefits include 10 days of vacation, several paid federal holidays, sick leave, a health care benefit package, and an appointment as an Assistant Instructor at the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy.

Contacts

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More Information

- www.northtexas.va.gov/pharmacy
- www.ttuhsu.edu/sop/residencies/currentprograms