

VAMC San Francisco 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.

Q: Can I do a phone interview rather than an in-person interview?

A: No, an in-person interview is required.

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. You can download the Reference Writer Instructions and provide to individuals writing your recommendations.

Q: Do I need to submit my National Matching Service (NMS) applicant Code Number by the residency application deadline?

A: Yes, please submit as part of your supplemental information requested by us in PhORCAS.

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 outlined in the "Reference Writer Instructions" letter, for example, 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.

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 rotation activities, future rotations, any teaching or community service activities

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

A: Residents are required to obtain a pharmacist license within 3 months (by October 1st) of starting their residency. Incoming residents who graduate from pharmacy school in June or who have other barriers to obtaining a license by October 1st will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For VA residencies, residents may obtain a license in any state and are not required to become licensed in California for the residency program. If you choose to complete an elective rotation at a non-VA facility, such as UCSF, California licensure is required. Once licensed, residents are appointed as intermittent clinical pharmacists (“dual appointment”) during the residency year and receive compensation for evening and weekend staffing. Residents who are not yet licensed will begin their required staffing along with other residents but will not perform all the duties of the pharmacist and will not receive compensation until they are licensed.