

Residency and Fellowship Tips and Timeline

Review this resource if you are considering pursuing a residency or fellowship for some basic information as well as helpful tips! This is intended for PY1-PY4 students. The sections in this resource include:

- Start Early
- Accredited or Peer Reviewed
- Preparation & Applications
- General Application Timeline

Start Early

The earlier you start thinking about these opportunities and building your resume the better! However, if you get started late down this path, that is OK. As a PY1-PY3 here are some things you can consider to strengthen your future applications:

- **Pursue academic excellence:** while grades are not everything, they are a component of the overall application.
- **Volunteer:** Get engaged in Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), perhaps even take on an officer position. Look for opportunities to volunteer with RSOs (see [student involvement](#)), local organizations, consider becoming a CPPS student ambassador, or get involved in one of the CPPS administrative committees (e.g. Curriculum Committee, DEI Committee, etc.).
- **Find a mentor:** Either via the [CPPS mentor program](#), any of the CPPS faculty, or even a recent WSU graduate or perhaps a pharmacist you have a connection to already that completed a residency or fellowship. Do not underestimate the power of networking! Ask others what they wish they had known when they were considering one of these opportunities.
- **Distinguish yourself:** Get involved with [research](#) early, or other opportunities that will differentiate you. Look for paid internship opportunities at local hospitals, clinics or community pharmacies while you are a student. Consider enrolling in the honors research program.
- **CPPS elective courses:** Consider courses such as: Leadership and Professional Development elective (PHARM 578), Practical Politics and Pharmacy elective (PHARM 580), and for those pursuing hospital-based residency the Advanced Elective in Critical Care (PHARM 591).
- **Attend workshops and information sessions:** You do not have to wait until your PY4 year to start attending these to scout out tips and programs you may be interested in. Attending the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' Career Seminar Series can also be a good way find out about potential programs and how speakers approached their career path.
- **PY4 rotations:**
 - Consider the **Residency Prep (ResPrep) Program** for PY4 students, this program allows students to do a portion of their rotations sequentially at one of our ResPrep

partner sites, closely modeled from residency programs. Regardless of what sites you end up at, network!

- Consider rotations like the WSU Drug Information Center to reinforce foundational information and guidelines that will benefit you as a practitioner. Those interested in fellowships can consider other PY₄ rotations that are application based such as the FDA, or at associations like AACP or APhA.
- Consider doing at least one elective rotation in the setting you are interested in prior to December when post-graduate training applications are submitted (e.g., Acute Care, Ambulatory, Association, Teaching, etc.).

Accredited or Peer Reviewed

Not all residency programs may be accredited by ASHP. It is important for you as an applicant to know if the program is accredited and the pros and cons associated. ASHP maintains a list of those programs that are currently accredited or are seeking accreditation.

Similarly, fellowship programs may have been “peer reviewed” by the ACCP Fellowship Review Committee to meet ACCP guidelines.

Research programs and compare them against one another when considering. In general, an accredited residency or peer reviewed fellowship programs have extra benchmarks for their programs to be considered in those categories. Many non-accredited programs are also rigorous and are not accredited because they offer a non-traditional experience that does not fit the requirements established for traditional residency experiences. However, some PGY₂ residency and fellowships may require that you have completed an accredited program. Carefully consider programs and what your career aspirations are, and if possible, ask if there are alumni from those programs that you can be connected with!

Preparation & Applications

Review the application for the program you are interested in advance and make note of any documents or prompts you will need to provide. There are tons of online resources with residency and fellowship application tips including videos, webpages, PDFs and more, be sure to look at the source of where the information is coming from to ensure it is reputable. Ask others that have been through the application process for suggestions. As a WSU PharmD student you also have access to “Readiness” via CORE ELMS, consider adding this [playlist of activities](#).

See our [Application Material Resources PDF](#) for suggestions about your CV, letter/statement of intent, recommendation letters, transcripts, preparing for an interview and more!

General Application Timeline

This is a suggested timeline for residencies, be sure to check the deadlines for fellowships and specific programs you are interested in. Remember your fourth year can be stressful and giving yourself as much time as possible to work on materials will help reduce that stress. Do not forget to also build in studying for the NAPLEX throughout your PY₄ year so you are ready to sit for the exam soon after graduating to get licensed in time!

Summer of PY₄ Year:

- Begin updating your CV and ask pharmacy peers, faculty and/or staff to review.
- Research programs, including program specific deadlines and mark your calendar!
 - [ASHP schedule of dates](#)

Pro Tip: Keep a calendar of deadlines specific to these programs, e.g., on your phone, planner, buy a separate wall calendar just for this and highlight deadlines, build in buffer time to have it done in advance.

Fall of PY₄ Year

- Review application materials required and begin working on them.
 - Always build-in time to have multiple people (including professionals in pharmacy) review your CV and letters of intent.
 - Consider who you may ask to write a letter of reference and ask them.
- Attend residency/fellowship open houses, many occur virtually and you can get face-time with the program to enhance your understanding of if the program meets your goals as well as make a good impression on that program by asking thoughtful questions.
- Plan to attend the WSU CPPS Career Fair where employers and residency directors exhibit. As with ASHP Mid-Year, speak with your preceptor about the possibility of attending and how to make-up hours if approved.
- Plan to attend the WSPA Annual Meeting, which hosts a local Residency Showcase which does not require registration for the full annual meeting, although attendance for networking opportunities is encouraged. This typically falls on a Saturday and may not interfere with your rotation schedule.
- Plan to attend ASHP Midyear- register and make travel plans. If the dates conflict with your rotations then communicate in advance with your preceptor sharing that you would like to attend this and inquire about if that would be possible and how to make-up hours. Reminder, the APPE manual has information about excused absences and make-up hours. Preceptors understand the value mid-year holds for upcoming graduates, it is all in how you present this as request, not a demand/statement.
- Many fellowships have application deadlines in September, October, and November.
- The PhorCAS application portal for residencies typically opens in November, and most program deadlines are in late December or early January.

Pro Tip: Keep a calendar of deadlines specific to these programs, e.g., on your phone, planner, buy a separate wall calendar just for this and highlight deadlines, build in buffer time to have it done in advance.

Winter of PY₄ Year

- Attend ASHP Mid-Year

- Be strategic and ask to meet with programs/recruiters there to ask questions about their program. Only provide your CV to them if asked.
- Ask program representatives (current residents, resident directors, etc.) about themselves and about their own path, what they wish they had known, etc. People love to share about their own journeys and their take-aways can be valuable.
- Submit application materials (most are Dec or Jan) according to each program's deadline.
 - Order transcripts, pay attention to deadlines to ensure they will be received in time, see transcripts” for more info.
- Interview planning- Some may be virtual while others may request you travel. Interviews are typically in January and February for residencies and in October or November for fellowships.

Spring of PY₄ Year

March is Phase I match day! If you do not get a match in Phase I pursue Phase II opportunities! Reach out to faculty mentors to assist you through this process.

Post-Graduation

Make sure you are licensed in the state your residency or fellowship is located in. Most programs begin in July and may require you to get a graduate intern license if you have not taken your NAPLEX exam yet while you wait for your Pharmacist Licensure. Check with the specific states board of pharmacy to see what their licensing options are.

[Graduation & Licensure](#)



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