



Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Introduction

The University of Southern Nevada - College of Pharmacy developed an innovative approach to experientially training pharmacy students. An introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPE) consists of 20 site visits during each of the P1 and P2 years. A six-week community pharmacy practice experience (CPPE) occurs during the summer between the first and second academic years. The advanced six-week institutional experience is completed during the third year.

The primary goal of the experiential curriculum is to ensure every student obtains the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to practice competently in a variety of settings. The progression of pharmacy practice experiences is designed to help students successfully transition from the didactic academic setting to the practice environment via practical application of what the student has learned. Integrating classroom knowledge and professional performance serves as the cornerstone of a student's education, instilling professionalism while ensuring competency in pharmaceutical care.

The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) exposes students to a variety of clinical pharmacy practice settings. Students are required to complete six rotations, each six weeks long:

- Institutional Practice
- Ambulatory Care
- Advanced Community Practice
- Adult Acute Care – Internal Medicine, Critical Care or Transitional Care
- Two clinical specialty selectives – described in our Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Manual

Each APPE has three sets of learning outcomes:

- General Outcomes – including written and verbal communication skills, patient assessment, drug information, etc., where repetition and mastery are essential
- Ten Professionalism Outcomes – reflecting the key professional behaviors the College of Pharmacy believes all pharmacists should embody
- Rotation-Specific Outcomes – site-specific activities (identified by Preceptors), which reflect normal daily practice (e.g. journal club, case presentation, etc.)

Students also are required to complete a minimum of four elective credit hours—choosing either experiential, didactic or a combination of both. Experiential electives typically include pharmacy practice opportunities, which may or may not involve direct patient contact. Didactic electives are provided by the College of Pharmacy faculty and encompass a variety of topics (page 52 of our Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Manual).

The complete experiential timeline is outlined on the following page.



COMPLETE EXPERIENTIAL TIMELINE

