



## **Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Introduction**

Employers are often concerned that today's graduates appear less familiar with the realities and demands of current pharmacy practice. Similar observations have been documented in the literature; graduates who are not sufficiently exposed to pharmacy practice prior to beginning their first position require more intensive orientation/training. These individuals often became disillusioned, evidencing a marked difference between what they were taught and workplace realities. Moreover, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Standards advocates introductory (early) experiential education beyond the typical "shadowing" experiences, commonplace in the past.

As a result, the University of Southern Nevada - College of Pharmacy developed a unique approach to educating pharmacy students: Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiential Training (IPPE). The primary goal of IPPE is to help students assimilate and apply didactic materials in a practice environment. IPPE reviews the basic technical and distributive functions of pharmaceutical care, while providing students the opportunity to expand their knowledge base, practice their skills and develop professional attitudes in an actual pharmacy setting. Integrating classroom knowledge with experiential training becomes the cornerstone of the student's education, instilling professionalism while ensuring competency in pharmaceutical care.

Students participate in 20 IPPE sessions per academic calendar year during each of the first two years of the curriculum. Each IPPE session is 8 hours long, equating to 160 contact hours annually.

While at the practice site, students are expected to complete required assignments related to materials recently discussed in class. The assignment is typed and submitted at the IPPE seminar or as instructed by the professor. Successful completion of all assignments is required to pass the IPPE.

In addition, each student is required to master a core set of annual learning outcomes associated with daily pharmacy practice. Preceptors are required to direct and/or supervise all student activities. As time permits, Preceptors may assign additional tasks, including but not limited to learning the computer system, entering prescription and patient data, performing distributive functions and/or counseling patients.

The scheduled day for IPPE is Friday for P1 students, Tuesday for P2 students. Following each IPPE session, students convene as a group (i.e. seminar) to discuss the assignment and share experiences. During the IPPE seminar faculty may schedule group work or other active learning exercises to reinforce on-site experiences and learning outcomes.

The IPPE schedule is designed so every student can successfully achieve all educational outcomes designated for the specified academic level. The material covered during IPPE complements and prepares students for the Community Pharmacy Practice Experience (CPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE).

The complete experiential timeline is outlined on the following page.



### COMPLETE EXPERIENTIAL TIMELINE

