

How is pharmaceutical care supported at your institution?

Pharmacy is well respected throughout the health system. We are often leaders and play a major role in committees and system-wide initiatives. Pharmacists with expertise in clinical practice play an integral role in the day-to-day care of patients.

What clinical and specialized service does your department offer?

Specialists are staffed in every area of the hospitals, most of which offer resident learning experiences. Additional pharmacy services offered include: pharmacokinetics, nutrition support, anticoagulation management, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Can you tell me about your program, including the number of applicants every year?

The Piedmont Atlanta Hospital PGY-1 Pharmacy residency program is a minimum of 52-week program that provides residents with extensive training opportunities in acute care, clinical services and practice management. On average, we have 60-70 applicants every year for 3 PGY1 positions.

What are the staffing responsibilities?

Residents have a staffing commitment in operational areas. Residents staff once per week from 4-8:30pm. Responsibilities may include order verification, distribution, drug information, pharmacokinetics, and anticoagulation management.

What are the weekend responsibilities?

Each resident is required to staff every third weekend. During the weekend, residents cover both the central and clinical services.

Do residents work on any holidays?

Residents will work 3 of the 5 designated holidays. This includes Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Memorial Day. The residents will cover the clinical service and/or a central position.

Are residents required to take call?

Residents take at-home call. Residents are assigned no more than 3 consecutive nights of call. Residents are NOT required to be in the hospital for call and are granted remote access into the EHR while on call. Residents are assigned a backup preceptor throughout the residency year while on call.

What projects do residents complete during their residency year?

Each resident completes a research project during the year in accordance with ASHP requirements. There will be additional projects during the year including completion of a medication use evaluation (MUE), drug class reviews, etc.

Do residents publish their projects?

Although not required, residents are strongly encouraged to publish their research project. Residents are required to present their research findings at the regional residency conference and submit a final manuscript in a publishable format prior to completion of the residency year. The resident will also present their MUE findings as a poster in December.

What positions have your residents taken after completion of your program?

Some residents continue their training with a PGY2 or fellowship. Many of our residents have gone on to pursue positions in acute care, academia, consulting, and managed care.

What teaching opportunities are available?

Mercer University College of Pharmacy offers a Teaching Certificate program. Although this is not required, residents with an interest in teaching may choose to participate in this program as a longitudinal elective learning experience. Residents will co-precept pharmacy interns, IPPE or APPE students throughout the year.

