

Harrison School of Pharmacy

Office of Experiential Learning

Advance Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Region and Site Placement

I. Region Assignment

A. Each year a predetermined number of student pharmacists will be assigned to each region based on resource availability. Should resources change student pharmacists may be required to change regions.

B. For scheduling purposes, each student pharmacist will be asked to rank the following regions for placement. These may be further subdivided based on preceptor availability. Regional placement is completed electronically in E*Value.

- Auburn-Montgomery, AL
- Columbus, GA
- Birmingham, AL
- Tuscaloosa, AL
- Mobile, AL- Biloxi, MS-Pensacola, FL
- Huntsville-Decatur, AL

C. Student pharmacists who fail to return their ranked order of region preference will be placed in the last region with availability.

D. Student pharmacists will be notified of region assignments in the early part of Fall semester of the P3 year.

E. After posting of the region assignments, student pharmacists wishing to be in a different region from the one they were assigned, may request via email to be put on a waiting list for a different region if availability develops. All requests for the waiting list will be prioritized based on the time the email is sent to the Office of Experiential Learning APPE Coordinator. A waiting list only means that if there is an additional opening in the region those student pharmacists will be considered for placement.

F. Student pharmacists must be prepared to have rotations in any city in their region. There are no guarantees that students will get all rotations in a certain city or area of their region.

G. Student pharmacists will have several weeks to swap regions with other students before rotation assignments are made. Student pharmacists may "swap" regions if both students sign an affidavit indicating agreement. However, this swap may only occur after all initial region assignments have been posted. Any type of payment for such swaps are not permitted and will result in disciplinary action. After the draft schedule is prepared, student pharmacists may work out swaps for individual rotations with classmates. The final approval of any swaps will be determined by the OEL.

H. Once final rotation assignments are made, no rotation or region swapping is allowed unless resources change.

II. Special Circumstances

Student pharmacists are notified upon admission to pharmacy school that they will likely be required to relocate in the P4 year. There are some special circumstances where specific student pharmacist or family needs may allow for consideration of placement in specific regional assignment/rotation placements. The following criteria have been established to allow special circumstances to be addressed when possible, while maintaining as much fairness as possible for all student pharmacists. Region assignment priority will generally be considered in the following circumstances:

- Single parent with primary custody of child/children
- Married parent who is the primary caregiver of an infant/child
- Primary caregiver of an adult family member with a disability or serious illness requiring special care
- Parent of a child with special needs
- Parent with a child or children in the local school system

In addition, any student pharmacist with a serious medical illness requiring access to special medical care will be assigned to the necessary region before all other student pharmacists. A physician's letter or documentation from the Office of Student's With

Disabilities may be requested to determine eligibility for this special circumstance. Student pharmacists who have a spouse or child with a serious illness may also request placement for this special circumstance.

In addition, the HSOP will attempt to address the following situations:

- An attempt will be made to assign P4 student pharmacists who are married to another P4 student pharmacist to the same region.
- An attempt will be made to place student pharmacists who are married to other HSOP student pharmacists in either the Auburn or Mobile regions (as appropriate).
- An attempt will be made to place student pharmacists who are married to students enrolled at Auburn University or another local university/college to regions in close proximity to where the spouse is located.
- An attempt will be made to place student pharmacists who are married and whose spouse is the primary financial support for the household to regions that will allow maintenance of a single household.

Other circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Experiential Learning and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Owning a home in a desired region is not a special circumstance for preferred region assignment.

Students requesting special consideration for the Auburn-Montgomery region may be accommodated by being placed in the Columbus, GA region, which is within driving distance from Auburn. Likewise, students requesting special consideration for the Birmingham region or Tuscaloosa region may be accommodated by being placed in either of those regions, which are within driving distance of each other.

Special financial aid may be available to P4 student pharmacists who have specific needs. These student pharmacists should contact the Office of Academic and Student Affairs for further information.

III. Rotation Assignments

A. Student pharmacists will enter their preferences for required rotations in E*Value when the selection period opens in Fall semester of the P3 year. Preferentially students will be placed with full-time faculty members before affiliate faculty.

B. Each student will receive one block off during the P4 year. This off block will be assigned during the rotation scheduling process with program needs and availability dictating student placement for this off block.

C. Beginning in May 2011, each student will complete two electives during the P4 year. Students may not have both electives in a community pharmacy or HSP rotation and only one elective can be in a non-patient care setting.

D. Student pharmacists may request special rotations that are not within the School's established regions. However, the student pharmacist may have no more than two such rotations without special permission of his/her PPE mentor, the Director of Experiential Learning and the Office of Academic Affairs. Sites must provide a learning experience that is not available in any of our current regions. Student pharmacists should also understand that some out-of-area electives have limited availability and there is a risk that placements could be cancelled. Student pharmacists desiring such a site are expected to identify the potential site/preceptor and provide this information to the Advanced Practice Experience Coordinator via email. These sites/preceptors must meet predefined criteria established by the School of Pharmacy.

E. Following initial assignment of required and elective rotations, student pharmacists may request any rotation openings that are still available in their region. A rotation will be substituted for another as long as it can be substituted "rotation block-for-rotation block" (e.g., rotations will not be rescheduled to find the best fit).

F. The goal is to have your P4 schedule completed by the end of Fall semester of the P3 Year. Your schedule will be available online in E*Value.

G. Once all regional rotation assignments are made, student pharmacists may request any rotation openings that are still available in other regions. A rotation will be substituted for another as long as it can be substituted "rotation block-for-rotation block" (e.g., rotations will not be rescheduled to find the best fit).

H. When the OEL has announced that the schedule is closed, no further requests for changes to rotations can be made. Changes to rotation schedules after this point will only be made if preceptor availability changes.

IV. Student considerations when making preferences for rotations

- A. If you are planning to pursue a residency or are undecided about a residency, you should consider making preferences for electives that are clinical based practice experiences. Good options for clinical electives include medicine rotations in hospitals or primary care rotations in clinics. Since you already have 2 primary care rotations that are required, it may benefit you to choose a medicine elective in a hospital.
- B. If you are pursuing a residency, you should probably consider requesting a drug information selective rotation.
- C. If you are planning to pursue a career in community/retail pharmacy, you should probably consider a variety of community pharmacy (retail chain vs independent pharmacy) or community pharmacy management electives.
- D. If you have any questions about what electives you should consider, please talk with your PPE mentor(s), the director of OEL or other faculty members.