



Choosing Your APPE Rotations

Presented by Mara Kieser, MS, RPh

Residency Club

September 21, 2016

Things to consider when choosing your APPE rotations...

1. Keep in mind that these experiences will be **the base of your future career** as a pharmacist. Don't short change yourself. Pick rotations that will **challenge you** to be the best pharmacist you can be. Take advantage of having the preceptor available for questions and guidance. Once you graduate and are licensed, you may possibly be working on your own with no one to ask.
2. **What areas of pharmacy practice interest you?** This is the only time in your career that you will have time to try out different pharmacy settings and practices. Don't be afraid to explore your interests. Even if you find out that the practice is not what you thought, it is good to know in a 6-week experience rather than taking a job and working at the position for possibly a year.
3. **Choose a variety of experiences.** Again, this is the time to get a wide exposure to pharmacy and to understand how things work in multiple practice settings. Think about transitions of care. Where do patients get care? Ambulatory, community, to acute, home health, and long term care. It will help you later knowing what has or what will happen to the patient in the previous or next care setting. You will most likely specialize by doing a post-graduate training.
4. Don't be afraid to do a rotation that is not in your local area. There are many hidden gems waiting for students to come and learn. **Don't let distance be a barrier.** Check to see if housing is available as some sites do offer housing. Check the clerkship webpage for housing information.
5. Many of your rotations may be considered a 6-week **job interview**. If you are interested in working at a site considering doing an APPE there so you can get a feel for the pharmacy practice. Just remember, while you are looking at them, they are looking at you!!!
6. **Timing.** Some students prefer to get their required courses done first to provide a basis to build on for the remaining elective courses. You may be able to do this but everyone will not be able to schedule the rotations in this order. Some students like doing the community in the spring blocks so that can review WI law closer to when they will take the MPJE.
7. **Timing.** If you are planning on applying for a residency, you may wish to get rotations at the site or a similar site in the summer or fall rotations. This allows you to see if you do like the type of practice and to potentially establish a relationship with the preceptor to obtain letters of reference.
8. **Timing.** You may wish to consider when the ASHP residency showcase is (block 5). There will be an extra week built in for students to attend the AHSP Midyear meeting. Applications are due on PhORCAS by January 1 for most sites. You may also want to consider the rotations that you do in blocks 6 and 7 as interviews take place during this time. You may need to miss time and need to make up hours during these blocks. Check the times the site is available for students to see if you will be able to make up missed time. (IE weekends, nights).

- ___ Blk 1 May 22 - June 30, 2017
- ___ Blk 2 July 3 - August 11, 2017
- ___ Blk 3 Aug 14 - Sept 22, 2017
- ___ Blk 4 Sept 25 - Nov 3, 2017
- ___ Blk 5 Nov 6 - Dec 22, 2017
- ___ Blk 6 Jan 1 - Feb 9, 2018
- ___ Blk 7 Feb 12 - Mar 23, 2018
- ___ Blk 8 Mar 26 - May 4, 2018

9. Where to find information about the rotations:

- a. Clerkship webpage- you can sort sites by type and region. When reading about the sites pay attention to the **PRE-SITE REQUIREMENTS**. Just like with your IPPEs, these requirements must be completed prior to the start of the rotation. If you are non-compliant, you may delay the start of your rotations. Some requirements include but are not limited to....10-panel urine tests, other health vaccinations, pre-site orientation modules, finger printing, HIPAA requirements.
 - b. Career fair- sites will have booths at the fair for you to ask about APPE site information. There will be round table discussions for you to meet in small group discussions with the preceptors. Look for more information to come.
 - c. Experiential Education Office Mondays 8am-noon. I am happy to advise about rotations.
 - d. Other students – Keep in mind that each student has his/her own bias which may not apply to you. I have students who love a site and others who dislike the same site. It depends on what you are looking for and your skills sets.
 - e. Avoid contacting sites via email. They are busy with their current students and we survey them on their availability.
 - f. Books –
 - i. Maximize Your Rotations by Mate M. Soric. ASHP 2013.
 - ii. The AACP Field Guide to Becoming a Standout Pharmacy Resident Candidate by Jerry L. Bauman and Keri A. Sims. AACP 2012.
 - iii. Get the Residency. ASHP's Guide to Residency Interviews and Preparation by Joshua Caballero, Kevin A. Clauson, and Sandra Benavides. ASHP 2012.
 - g. Article –
 - i. Morgan J. Choosing your fourth-year rotations wisely. *ASHP*.2015;72:22-23.
10. Come up with your **list of potential sites**. You will be assigned your region prior to picking specific rotations. You need to have options for each round. Acute/hospital; ambulatory/community; elective 1; elective 2; elective 3; elective 4. There will be a week to review by the experiential education office. You will have a sign up time and students sign up every few minutes each day.
 11. **Avoid picking duplicate** type experiences...eg two chain pharmacies, two ICU rotations, two surgical rotations, two long term care rotations, two independent pharmacies. You will be asked to switch during the post-week vetting if you pick duplicate experiences.
 12. Have a **backup plan ready** at the time you are picking. Know that you will end up where you should be. You will learn what you need at the sites.
 13. **Details** – BID if you have a positive background check, we will be sending the information to the site and the site will have the final say if they will take you.
 14. **Be open to learning**. You may be the rate limiting step in the learning process. Most preceptors will teach as much as you are willing to learn. You will need to work harder than the preceptor when it comes to your learning.

Audience Questions

Q: How many of the eight rotations need to be in our hub?

A: Four out of the eight rotations must be in the hub.

Q: What order (elective, required, etc) do we pick in?

A: International rotation slots will count as first elective rotations, otherwise it will be required hospital pairings first round, the second round is required community outpatient, the following 4 days will be picking electives. Required hospital “pairings” means having the same hospital and community/Amb site, likely back-to-back blocks. Some students send preliminary list of sites to Prof Kieser to verify that requirements are being met and that they are set up for best experience possible. Students are encouraged to take some quiet time and focus on what you’re looking for (e.g. more hospital, more community) from the APPE experience.

Q: What is the best way to get some background information on each site?

A: Can look at descriptions immediately following tonight’s meeting

Q: Can I do APPEs out of state of Wisconsin? If so, what's the process? Are there limitations?

A: Students who want to do out-of-state APPEs need to follow out-of-state policy aka needs to have been arranged in the Spring before rotations are picked. There is a non-binding survey sent out to DPH-2 class in the spring semester to gauge interest. To be approved, the APPE site must not have a comparable experience within the state of WI (due to accreditation guidelines).

Q: Is there a time you’d suggest to do an international rotation?

A: Prof Kieser suggested Block 6 if it’s still available because there are two extra weeks built in leaving more time to get to rotation early and travel.

Q: Once the APPE-RT students have been identified, what factors are taken into consideration when deciding region?

A: At first all DPH-3 students will be put in their desired hub. At that point Prof Kieser will make readjustments. For this reason, students are required to rank all 6 regions. Hub considerations are made for unique situations that students make known in the comments section.

Q: How does housing work for such a short period (now 6 weeks)?

A: Seek out month-to-month lease options within the hub.