

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA College of Pharmacy**  
**Pharmacy Mentoring Program Outline**  
**2009-2010**  
**Pharmacist Mentors Needed**

Pharmacy students today are facing a rapidly changing and uncertain health care environment. In response to the need for students to gain a better understanding of the wide variety of career opportunities for pharmacists, a mentoring practice experience has been offered for first professional year pharmacy students at the University of Minnesota since the 1995-1996 academic year. This mentoring experience will again be offered this year for all first year pharmacy students on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses of the University. The mentoring provides an opportunity for students to get a first-hand look at the opportunities and challenges of a career in pharmacy during their first year of professional education. By working one-on-one with practicing pharmacists as mentors, students can build a strong support network and foundation for making career decisions. We are seeking 2009-2010 mentors who are interested in volunteering their time to educate and guide new pharmacy students. Everyone will be encouraged to share ideas and concerns.

The following is a series of questions commonly asked about the mentor program. It is hoped that the answers provided here will encourage you to participate as a mentor in this program.

**WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROGRAM?**

The primary goal of this program is to demonstrate early pharmacy practice experience by introducing first year pharmacy students to professional career opportunities under the mentorship of pharmacists working in a variety of practice and business settings. In addition, this activity will provide each student the opportunity to develop one-on-one relationships with practicing pharmacy professionals. While on site, students will observe all aspects of the pharmacist's work and professional life and be encouraged to ask questions and share ideas with mentors. This observational experience is designed to be non-threatening and enjoyable for both students and mentors.

**HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF EACH PARTICIPATING MENTOR?**

Mentors are asked to spend 10 hours each semester with a student. During each semester of the 2009-2010 academic year, the following tentative schedule will apply:

Week 1: Orientation Class (at the College of Pharmacy) - Students only

Week 2-13: Mentoring

Week 14: Student Presentations/Small Groups (at the College of Pharmacy) - Students only

**DO I NEED TO BE A REGISTERED PRECEPTOR WITH THE MINNESOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY TO PARTICIPATE AS A MENTOR?**

No special registration is required to become a mentor. This early pharmacy practice experience does not fulfill student internship requirements with the Board of Pharmacy; therefore, it is not subject to specific Board requirements. However, a participating pharmacist mentor may function as a preceptor for a student intern or extern and, at the same time, participate as a mentor in this Pharmacy Mentoring Program. This will allow any preceptors who are presently participating in College of Pharmacy programs to also mentor students in the first year program.

**DO I NEED TO BE A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO BE A MENTOR?**

No. There are no requirements that you be a U of M alumnus.

**CAN A PARTICIPATING MENTOR HAVE MORE THAN ONE STUDENT AT THE SAME TIME?**

Yes. Each mentor may have responsibility for one or two students each semester. We do want to assure that you have adequate time to spend with each individual student; therefore, we ask that you limit

participation to no more than two students per semester or a maximum of four students per academic year.

**IS IT POSSIBLE FOR MORE THAN ONE PRACTITIONER AT THE SAME SITE OR COMPANY TO MENTOR DIFFERENT STUDENTS DURING THE SAME SEMESTER?**

Yes. In fact we encourage you to make your colleagues aware of the program. Please feel free to duplicate the attached Voluntary Enrollment Form for others.

**WHAT KIND OF MENTORING EXPERIENCES ARE ACCEPTABLE?**

Suitable experiences for fulfilling a student's 10-hour semester requirement include the following:

- Observation of pharmacist's work
- Attending meetings with mentor (including board meetings, committee meetings, or professional meetings)
- Reading pharmacy literature on-site based on direction from his/her mentor
- Discussion with a mentor and others with whom he/she works
- Pharmacy-related lunch or dinner meetings with a mentor
- Telephone conversations with a mentor
- Reviewing or writing reports/articles on-site with a mentor
- Touring mentor's places of employment
- Shadowing of mentor and others with whom he/she works

**This does not include 10 hours of working as a technician. In addition, first professional year pharmacy students are not eligible to work as pharmacy interns. Students should not, by working in a pharmacy, fulfill their first professional year pharmacy mentoring experience.**

**CAN MENTORING TAKE PLACE BEFORE OR AFTER A SEMESTER BEGINS?**

Because the curriculum limits the amount of time that students have available during the day on weekdays, it is acceptable for mentoring to take place prior to the beginning of the semester. However, unless there are extenuating circumstances and the mentoring directors grant an extension, mentoring should be completed by the end of a given semester.

**COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING**

Each student and mentor will have the opportunity to evaluate this program at the end of each semester. Mentoring grades of pass/fail (S/N) will be issued by the program instructors based on verification by each mentor of attendance, the time spent on-site, and participation in scheduled course activities at the College. Successful mentoring will be one of the requirements necessary to successfully complete the course in which mentoring is offered.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN MY HOME OR PHARMACY SITE CONTACT INFORMATION?**

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Becky Drasin at 612-626-1467 or drasio01@umn.edu with any home or site information changes.

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS:**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact

**S. Bruce Benson, Ph.D.**

**612-624-0429**

**FACULTY:**

Pharmacy Alumni Society Board of Directors

On-site mentors

**You are encouraged to participate in introducing new students to our profession.**