Residency season is just around the corner and many preceptors are hearing questions from curious students regarding residency programs and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM). There are several excellent resources available on the ASHP website for information about pharmacy residencies and what it means to be an ASHP Accredited Residency Program (http://www.ashp.org). Direct your students to the ASHP website for answers to broad questions about residencies. This website is also a great starting place for inquiries about the MCM and will provide several of the resources noted below. Questions I most often receive from students regarding the MCM are:

What are the benefits of attending the MCM?
At the MCM you will be able to network with pharmacy students and professionals from across the country. The pharmacy students that you meet at the MCM will be your colleagues after graduation. There is programming available that is designed specifically for students. At the residency showcase, you will have the opportunity to speak with residency directors and current residents from programs across the country.

How can I maximize my experience at the MCM?
The key to a successful MCM is organization. Formulate a schedule before the meeting that includes any educational programming in which you are interested, the residency showcases, and any interviews that you have set up. It is important to note that each residency program will have a booth at only one of the three showcases and you will need to know which programs are at which showcase.

Bring copies of your curriculum vitae (CV) and business cards if you have them. Research residency programs before the meeting using the ASHP online directory so that you have a list of programs you intend to target during the meeting. It is unrealistic to think that you will be able to visit every booth in the showroom due to the sheer number of programs represented.
Answering students’ questions about residencies and Midyear cont’d

It is important to thoroughly research these programs and keep notes with a list of questions that you would like to ask. Try not to ask questions about information that is available on the program’s website.

Printing the floor maps that are provided on the ASHP website for the residency showcases and finding the programs ahead of the showcase will save you valuable time. After you speak with representatives from each program, take a few minutes to write down your thoughts and answers to your questions. Most importantly, be sure to dress professionally and wear comfortable shoes!

Do I need to utilize CareerPharm’s Personnel Placement Service (PPS)?

PPS allows a residency candidate to schedule a preliminary interview with a program at the MCM. PPS is a great place to have one-on-one time with representatives from residency programs, but it is important to note that not all the programs participate in PPS. The majority of PPS employers will be recruiting for PGY-2 residency programs, fellowships or professional jobs. For a PGY-1 residency candidate, PPS should augment your experiences at the residency showcase.

The PPS website opens this year in late October for you to upload your CV (www.careerpharm.com). You can then search for programs and contact them to set up an interview time. There is a video available on the PPS website that will guide you through the process. Please note that registration for PPS is separate from the MCM registration. PPS is not mandatory if you are interested in a residency; however, some students find it helpful to speak with programs in a more intimate setting.

Floor maps of the PPS program are available on the ASHP website to help guide you around the showroom. Remember, it is important to follow up with a thank you note after your interview.

The questions reviewed here are very broad and students will often ask more directed questions regarding registration, hotels, etc. After the MCM is over, there will undoubtedly be questions regarding the residency application process and interview preparation. The ASHP website can serve as the first resource for all of these inquiries. If you have additional questions that cannot be answered with the information available on the website, you may contact Jacob Gettig, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Education at jgetti@midwestern.edu.

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Ask the Office of Experiential Education
by Avery Spunt, RPh, MEd, FASHP

Dear Avery,

It seems that many students who come to my site for their experience do not know or understand what plagiarism means. Can you explain to me what the Chicago College of Pharmacy teaches students about plagiarism?

Dear Preceptor,

The Office of Experiential Education faculty agrees with you that students can be confused as to what constitutes plagiarism. However, we discuss plagiarism multiple times in the curriculum, including IPPE and APPE orientations. Faculty include plagiarism warnings in their syllabi, and the University includes a section that defines plagiarism in the Midwestern University Student Handbook, as follows:

“Plagiarism
Definition: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise.”

“Clarification:
Direct Quotation: Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be cited in a footnote or endnote.
Paraphrase: Prompt acknowledgment is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part, in one’s own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, endnote identifying the exact reference. Borrowed Facts: Information gained in reading or research that is not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. One footnote or endnote is usually enough to acknowledge indebtedness when a number of connected sentences are drawn from one source.”

CCP students should not use the excuse, “I did not know I had plagiarized.” They have been taught what is expected from them when they submit original work. Midwestern University takes plagiarism seriously, and there are severe consequences when students participate in dishonest practices, which are spelled out in the Student Handbook:

“Actions that could be taken include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for the work involved; suspension from the course, which may result in a failing grade for the course; automatic failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the program or University.”

If a student on an IPPE or APPE rotation is suspected of committing plagiarism, please contact the OEE office faculty, and we will help you adjudicate the situation. If you have any additional questions or concerns please call me at 630-515-6477.
Midwestern University’s Changing Campus

Midwestern University continues to expand the number of degrees available, welcome more students, and stay on the forefront of technologies in teaching to support this growth. Several changes have been made to the Downers Grove campus, including developing an additional campus.

Science Hall Opened
This past summer, Midwestern University opened its doors to the newly constructed, state-of-the-art Science Hall. Boasting 239,999 square feet spread across five floors of classrooms, labs, offices, and research facilities, this technology-rich, energy-efficient building is now the largest on campus.

The Science Hall includes a new Dental Simulation Lab that will be used by the inaugural class of dental medicine students. Midwestern University’s College of Dental Medicine-Illinois is the first dental school to open in Illinois in the last 40 years and joins only two others in the state. Other features of the building include a Testing Center that accommodates 230 students, an accreditation suite, and a new anatomy laboratory.

Dining and Parking Expanded
Also on the Downers Grove Campus, the Student Commons expansion has been completed and includes a larger student dining room, an outdoor patio, and provides additional space for Student Services. Finally, an expanded parking deck on the west side of campus creates an additional 966 spaces—more than doubling the parking space previously available.

Clinical Campus Under Construction
Midwestern University has purchased 12.8 acres of land approximately five minutes from the current Downers Grove Campus. This will become home to the new Midwestern University Clinical Campus, where students will work with faculty in a variety of services. The new five-story clinic, which includes both a 200,000 plus square foot building and a 900-vehicle parking deck, will offer excellent visibility and access for many future patients. Completion is expected in 2013.

At the clinical campus, the University will provide health care services for the community. Osteopathic physicians, pharmacists, clinical psychologists and dentists will be able to train students while seeing patients in the community. This campus is critical to the new College of Dental Medicine-Illinois because all of the third and fourth year students will be working with their faculty in treating patients and caring for the dental needs of the young and old at reduced, affordable fees.

Community members, business leaders, and University officials gather for a dedication ceremony for the new Science Hall on the Downers Grove Campus.

Calendar

CCP Alumni Council’s Dinner with the Dean
Friday, November 18, 2011; 7:00 - 10:00 PM
Grotto Italian Restaurant, Oak Brook, IL

Alumni and Friends Reception at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
Sunday, December 4, 2011; 6:00 - 7:30 PM
The Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA

Alumni and Friends Reception at APhA’s Annual Meeting/Exposition
Sunday, March 11, 2012; 6:00 - 7:30 PM
The Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA

Keep in Touch
Let us know what’s new with you or update your contact information. You may contact Damienne Souter, Assistant to the Dean, at 630.515.7373 or dsoute@midwestern.edu or the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 800.962.3053 or alumni@midwestern.edu.

You may also go to www.midwestern.edu and click on MWUNET to access the Alumni Directory, check the Job Finder, or update your contact information. Simply login the same way you did when you were a student. Still need some assistance? Then feel free to call the IT Help Desk at 630.515.7361 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM CST.

Contact Us
With any questions, concerns or future submissions, please contact Damienne Souter, Assistant to the Dean, at 630.515.7373 or dsoute@midwestern.edu.