

University of North Carolina Medical Center

The University of North Carolina (UNC) Medical Center is a leading academic medical center and is the flagship institution of the UNC Health Care System, located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The medical center houses 900+ inpatient beds, including over 100 critical care beds, a level 1 trauma center, the largest burn center in the region, a pediatric center of excellence, a National Cancer Institute–designated comprehensive cancer center, and a comprehensive stroke center. Annually, the hospital has 40,000 admissions, and the extensive network of ambulatory care clinics has 1 million visits.

The medical center's department of pharmacy is a recognized leader in pharmacy practice, education, research, and postgraduate training. The UNC pharmacy residency programs, founded in 1967, will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

Currently, UNC has 37 residents and is home to 13 distinct residency programs:

PGY1 Pharmacy Practice
PGY1 Ambulatory Care
PGY1/2 Pharmacotherapy
PGY1/2 Health System Pharmacy Administration
PGY2 Ambulatory Care
PGY2 Cardiology
PGY2 Critical Care
PGY2 Health System Medication Use Management
PGY2 Hematology/Oncology
PGY2 Infectious Diseases
PGY2 Pediatrics
PGY2 Psychiatry
PGY2 Solid Organ Transplantation

The 13 UNC pharmacy residency programs are built around four core tenets:

1. Clinical Patient Care – Each UNC pharmacy residency program focuses on developing capable and exceptional clinicians who maintain patient care at the core of their work mission. Through exposure to over 80 preceptors in a wide area of practices, residents learn from national thought leaders and experts in clinical practice. The medical center's department of pharmacy has received six consecutive ASHP Best Practices Awards (2011–2016) in recognition of UNC-established and implemented services and models of care. In addition to participating in 10–11 months of concentrated rotations, residents provide decentralized staffing coverage for many UNC services during three concentrated weeklong experiences each year.
2. Education – A defining characteristic of each UNC pharmacy residency program is its strong partnership and integration with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. UNC preceptors train future educators through high-level, challenging experiences for students and residents. Residents are designated as clinical instructors at the school and are heavily involved in educating students in each year of the school's newly transformed curriculum, including early immersion, APPE (advanced pharmacy practice experience) education, and classroom teaching. Residents are also eligible to participate in the UNC Teaching Certificate Program during their residency year.
3. Leadership – Current residents are the future leaders within the pharmacy profession. As such, UNC faculty believe in developing and nurturing residents' fundamental skills of leadership during the residency. UNC residents are eligible to participate in the UNC Leadership Certificate Program. This program, the first of its kind nationwide, is now 4 years old. Its successes have garnered national impact and serve as a model for other such programs. In addition, each

resident is assigned a “longitudinal leadership” role, leading a particular event or aspect of the program, and four residents serve as chief residents during the academic year.

4. Research – Although research has long been a requirement of residency training, a core goal for UNC residents is the formalization of a research process to ensure their deep understanding and appreciation of what it takes to conduct meaningful and effective research. Moreover, UNC residents participate in the “flipped” model of research, an innovative model that was developed, piloted, and implemented at UNC to graduate residents who can better contribute to research endeavors in their professional lives. Residents must submit a manuscript for publication during their residency year, which provides them the opportunity to go through this process in a guided, mentored fashion.

To achieve the four core tenets, the UNC pharmacy residency programs rely on a well-developed and comprehensive structure of support and mentorship. Although many people are involved in residents’ training throughout the year, each resident has only one dedicated mentor, whom the resident chooses, to serve as a guide and confidante throughout the training program. This mentor-mentee relationship is special, allowing residents to more thoroughly explore and evaluate their own experiences with the goal of maximizing their time at UNC to suit their individual needs.

UNC residents are encouraged to participate professionally at the local, regional, and national level. Moreover, they are allotted professional travel stipends and encouraged to attend relevant meetings and professional development opportunities.

Residents leave UNC with a firm tie to and belief in the “UNC family,” which represents the commitment of the medical center’s department of pharmacy and each UNC pharmacy residency program to the residents of the UNC pharmacy programs, not only during these residents’ time at UNC but throughout their career as well. The 400+ graduates of the UNC pharmacy residency programs stretch across the country and around the world, providing a network of support and professional development to UNC residents and alumni.