

There are numerous opportunities for formal professional growth and training within Pharmacy. With the new PharmD program commencing at the University of Alberta, many people may look at the options and wonder “What is the best path for me?” The purpose of this document is to provide you with some basic facts about two of the Alberta-based clinical options - the CSHP Accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency Program and the University of Alberta Post-Professional Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.

	Residency	University of Alberta Post-Professional Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
The Basics		
What is this?	One year of experiences in direct patient care, leadership/management, medication use systems, drug information, and research in an institutional setting. Involvement in the education of students and other health professionals. Aim of the program is to train pharmacists to practice effectively in an institutional setting including both inpatient and outpatient clinics.	Approximately 12-14 months of combined didactic/classroom and experiential learning primarily in direct patient care (full-time program). Some involvement in the education of students and other health professionals. The aim of the program is to develop graduates’ confidence and proficiency through exposure to a variety of practice settings including acute care (institutional), community, and primary care. Opportunities for part-time enrollment will be explored in the near future.
How much clinical training do I get?	Approximately 28 weeks. Standard experiences include general medicine, critical care, infectious diseases, ambulatory care, cardiology and either geriatrics or pediatrics. There are also many optional rotations in specialized areas. The Cancer Care residents have standard experiences in various aspects of oncology such as solid organ tumours, hematology, pain and symptom management, and bone marrow transplantation.	Up to 36 weeks. Credit for experiential rotations may be given for prior experience (e.g. students with recent practice experience or residency); new graduates will receive credit for 6 weeks. Required rotations (6 weeks each) in acute care, ambulatory/community practice, and as part of an interprofessional team. One rotation is repeated to facilitate a longer, in-depth practice experience in an area of interest. A specialty elective rotation that students design is also available.
How much didactic training do I get?	Minimal. Residents are expected to be self-driven learners who are on rotation to learn from the experience and guidance of their preceptor(s). Residents do have the opportunity to teach others, including precepting pharmacy students.	Five courses consisting of 18 credits total of university-level course work (involving lectures, labs, seminars, portfolios, and student presentations) in evidence based medicine, patient care skills/patient assessment, advanced pharmacotherapy, team collaboration/pharmacy education and seminars. Students will have the opportunity to teach others, including precepting pharmacy students.
Is there any formal research training?	Yes, each resident is responsible for designing, conducting, and presenting a formal research project as part of the program requirements.	No, however students will be exposed to some aspects of research in the didactic training. Students may also pursue a research interest through a specialty elective rotation in a research setting.
The Benefits		
What will this help me do?	<p>Institutional practice is a niche practice that is generally not the focus of undergraduate pharmacy training. The residency program provides additional training to prepare students to practice in this setting, including both knowledge and skills. The program allows for clinical application of topics learned in University and also builds on topics in complex patients with acute problems that are not typically covered. This learning includes working with interdisciplinary teams to provide patient care, giving students experience in collaborative care and interdisciplinary education. Residents will also have an opportunity to develop skills in the application of evidence based medicine, formal presenting, scholarly writing and research, which aid in the development of advanced practice in this unique setting.</p> <p>While pharmacists can work in institutional settings post-graduation, the residency program will give the student a head start in becoming a competent, efficient practitioner in this healthcare setting. Managers view graduates of residency programs as being equivalent to a pharmacist of 3-5 years experience.</p>	<p>This program aims to develop graduates into more confident and proficient practitioners. With flexibility built into the experiential rotation courses, there is opportunity for the student to focus on practice areas of interest and develop their skills and knowledge in various clinical settings including community practice. The specialty rotation allows the student to explore other pharmacist roles of interest.</p> <p>Graduates of this program will further develop their clinical skills to provide optimal patient-centered care and work effectively in a team setting. Students will also develop additional skills in evidence-based practice, leadership, and education of patients and other health professionals. Graduates will gain additional knowledge and skills to practice pharmacy to the full scope of practice in Alberta (e.g. prescribing, lab test ordering, administration of injections, etc.)</p>

Let's talk money!	Residents are paid a stipend (~50% of a starting pharmacist salary in Alberta)	This degree program is based on a cost-recovery tuition model and is set by the University of Alberta. Tuition is expected to be competitive with non-traditional Doctor of Pharmacy programs.
What do I get from It?	Certification as "ACPR" (Accredited Canadian Pharmacy Resident) added to your credentials.	Degree of "PharmD" (Doctor of Pharmacy)
Where Do I Learn More?	http://www.cshp.ca/programs/residencyTraining/applicantsinfo_e.asp	http://www.pharm.ualberta.ca/en/Prospective_Students/Doctor_of_Pharmacy_Program.aspx