

Student Pharmacist Residency Program Consideration Checklist

As you begin exploring residency opportunities, the number of programs and possibilities can feel overwhelming. Choosing the right fit isn't just about reputation or location—it's about finding a program that aligns with your values, goals, and vision for your career. By creating a Residency Program Consideration Checklist, you can build a personalized rubric based on the factors most important to you, from clinical experiences to mentorship to work-life balance. Using this tool to rate each program will keep your decision-making focused, organized, and intentional, helping you identify the residency where you'll truly thrive.

Program Accreditation & Structure

- Is the program **ASHP-accredited** (or in candidate status)?
- PGY1 focus: **community, health-system, academic, ambulatory care, managed care**—does it align with my career goals?
- What is the program's **core rotation structure** (required experiences)?
- How many **elective rotations** are available? Do they match my interests?
- Does the program offer **PGY2 opportunities** in my desired specialty?

Clinical & Professional Opportunities

- Variety and quality of **clinical rotations** (inpatient, outpatient, specialty).
- Opportunities for **teaching, precepting, or academia**.
- Research expectations: poster, manuscript, major project.
- Professional development activities (leadership training, committees).
- Opportunities for **interprofessional collaboration**.

Program Culture & Support

- Reputation and **mentorship style** of preceptors and program leadership.
- Resident well-being**: work-life balance, wellness initiatives.
- Number of residents in the program (size: small vs. large).
- Resident satisfaction from past participants.
- Support for **career development** (fellowship/job placement after).

Teaching & Precepting

- Availability of a **teaching certificate program**.
- Opportunities to **precept pharmacy students**.
- Level of academic involvement (lecturing, discussion groups, simulations).

Research & Scholarship

- Type of **residency project** (research, quality improvement, clinical).
- Support available for IRB, data collection, and statistical analysis.
- Opportunities to present at **local, state, or national conferences**.
- Encouragement to publish results in peer-reviewed journals.

Logistics & Practical Considerations

- Program **location**: urban vs. rural, cost of living, family/friends support nearby.
- Compensation** (stipend/salary) vs. local cost of living.
- Benefits: health insurance, vacation time, conference funding.
- Work expectations: **staffing/clinical service hours** and weekend commitments.
- Licensure requirements: Does the state require **early NAPLEX/MPJE** completion?

Long-Term Career Fit

- Does this program align with my **short- and long-term career goals**?
- Program's track record of **post-residency placements** (PGY2, fellowships, jobs).
- Alumni network strength and ongoing mentorship opportunities.
- Opportunity to practice in my **desired area of pharmacy** after residency.

 **Pro Tip for Students:** Keep a copy of this checklist for each program you are considering. Use it during Midyear, interviews, and site visits to take notes and compare programs side by side.