Pharmaceutical Care Clerkship Goals and Objectives

OBJECTIVES:

1. Assess the pharmaceutical care needs of the institution or work site. The student should also consider new and innovative roles which may expand the pharmacist's role and the delivery of pharmaceutical care. The service must demonstrate the pharmacist’s responsibility for comprehensive drug therapy management and its related therapeutic outcomes.

2. Provide a thorough and comprehensive review of the relevant clinical and therapeutic literature relating to the service under development.

3. Provide rational economic and/or patient care justification for initiation of the service. Although an important aspect of all proposals, the relative weight may vary upon site and/or type of service proposed.

4. Describe the structure, procedures, and limitations under which the service will function.

5. Implement a pilot study of the service.

6. Identify and define the outcome measures and/or quality assurance measures which will be used to evaluate patient care and resource utilization (i.e., develop a rational and comprehensive evaluation plan).

7. Submit upon completion a written report outlining Steps 1 through 6. Format of the report should be consistent with one of the established peer-reviewed pharmacy journals and will include the following: an introduction, background and rationale for service, methods, results, and discussion sections. Although publication of project results is not required, the report is expected to be of similar quality.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

The Pharmaceutical Care Clerkship is intended to provided a valuable student learning experience as well as assist pharmacies and institutions in the development and implementation of clinical services. It is recognized that development of political, administrative, and possibly financial support may be necessary prior to initiating any of the course objectives outlined above, and that the student may not be able to influence all of these prerequisites. Thus, some degree of flexibility in clerkship design is inherent and an accepted limitation of the course objectives. Creativity, innovation, and expansion of the pharmacist's role in the delivery of pharmaceutical care are high priorities and objectives of the Pharmaceutical Care clerkship.

During the process of clerkship scheduling, the student’s faculty advisor will be available to offer direction for the Pharmaceutical Care clerkship. The clerkship preceptor may be the student’s academic advisor, although it is highly recommended that the student select a local preceptor whose background supports the type of clinical service/project the student chooses to develop/implement. Approval of Pharmaceutical Care preceptors will be made by the Director of Practitioner Affairs in consultation with the Chair of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences.

An outline and proposed timeline for completion of the project must be submitted and approved by the faculty advisor prior to clerkship entry. Realistically, it is anticipated that most students will complete preliminary work up to the point of implementation and actual data collection, prior to actual enrollment in the Pharmaceutical Care clerkship. Generally, students may not enroll in the clerkship until all other clerkship requirements have been met.

In the event actual implementation of a service cannot be accomplished, the PCC requirements may be fulfilled through a detailed analysis and justification of a proposed pharmaceutical care service. The process (Objectives 1-5) will be similar except that a retrospective chart review rather than prospective data collection methodology can be substituted in order to demonstrate potential patient care and/or economic advantages.

Upon review and evaluation of the final written report, a satisfactory or unsatisfactory will be awarded by the designated faculty advisor.