



QUALITY MEDICATION USE



2025-2026

Student & Professional Programs



Student & Professional Programs

PQA is committed to producing the next generation of leaders in health care quality and provides healthcare quality experience to students and graduates from a wide variety of disciplines.

3	<u>Welcome from PQA's CEO</u>
4	<u>About PQA</u>
5	<u>Executive Fellowship</u>
12	<u>MPH Practicum Program</u>
15	<u>Summer Executive Internship</u>
17	<u>Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rotation</u>
20	<u>Additional Information</u>

Welcome from PQA's CEO

Greetings!

On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for your interest in the PQA Student and Professional Programs!

As an emerging leader in healthcare, public health, and pharmacy, now is the right time for you to pursue unique and non-traditional opportunities to expand your knowledge, diversify your experience, and increase your understanding about quality medication use and its impact on patients, providers, and the healthcare system.

We believe strongly in the importance and value of developing and growing the next generation of healthcare leaders. At PQA, we are pleased to offer you a variety of different opportunities to actively contribute to the success of the alliance as an integral member of our team, while also having the opportunity to work directly with industry leaders through our broad and diverse membership.

Pursuing non-traditional opportunities, such as the PQA Student and Professional Programs, can significantly influence your career. As someone who took advantage of non-traditional opportunities during my time as a student, I can say with confidence that exploring all available opportunities benefited me professionally. Likewise, I am confident that your experience will broaden your perspective and shape your own journey.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in pursuing one of the many opportunities to work with our amazing team and members through the PQA Student and Professional Programs. From the whole PQA team, we look forward to speaking with you in greater detail about our work and critical role in ensuring quality medication use.

Sincerely,



Micah Cost, PharmD, MS, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



About PQA

PQA, the Pharmacy Quality Alliance, is a national quality organization dedicated to improving medication safety, adherence, and appropriate use. A measure developer, researcher, educator and convener, PQA's quality initiatives support better medication use and high-quality care.

A non-profit, non-governmental organization, PQA represents the spectrum of healthcare leaders involved in prescription drug coverage, medication use, medication services and quality improvement. Nearly 220 diverse member organizations, including pharmacies, health plans, health care providers, pharmacy benefit managers, biopharmaceutical companies, technology vendors, government agencies, associations, health information technology organizations, researchers, accrediting organizations and academia. PQA's work is patient-centered and includes participation from individuals with relevant lived experience.

PQA was established in 2006 as a public-private partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). PQA was created because there were no organizations or national programs focused on quality improvement for prescription drug programs. PQA develops medication- focused performance measures through a consensus-based, multi-stakeholder process.

Our mission is optimizing health by advancing the quality of medication use.

We approach our mission with **honesty** and **standards**, cultivate relationships through **inclusiveness** and **collaboration**, and define success by **ingenuity** and **impact**.

PQA is committed to producing the next generation of leaders in health care quality. PQA provides healthcare quality experience to students and graduates from a wide variety of disciplines. All students and early-career professionals gain valuable experience in healthcare quality, measure development and stewardship, research and education in a non-profit association setting.

Executive Fellowship

The PQA Postdoctoral Executive Fellowship serves to produce the next generation of leaders in healthcare quality through a full-time, 12-month program based in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The Executive Fellow collaborates with a wide variety of stakeholders at a national level to impact the quality of care patients receive.

The program's foundation begins with the applicant's interests to foster the development of core skill sets in:

Project Management

Medication Use Quality Education

Quality Metric Design & Use

Healthcare Quality Research

Non-profit & Association Management



"The PQA Executive Fellowship has given me an exceptionally unique and comprehensive understanding of our nation's health care system and the ever-increasing emphasis on value. Collaborating with the diverse PQA membership and leadership has supported my professional growth beyond the Fellowship, and set my career path on a trajectory for success."

Maria Scarlatos, PharmD, CPHQ; PQA Executive Fellow 2014-2015

Executive Fellowship

There are many opportunities available for the Executive Fellow at PQA. The fellowship has key components as well as the opportunity for additional projects based on the fellow's interests and PQA's mission-driven needs.

Key Program Components:

- Earn a professional certification
- Serve as a mentor for PQA's Learner Programs
- Lead recruitment for PQA's Learner Programs
- Engage in professional development opportunities
- Shadow PQA member organizations

Potential opportunities based on interest and need:

- Immerse in the PQA Annual Meeting, Leadership Summit and Conveners
- Participate in teaching opportunities
- Strengthen writing and publication experience
- Engage with key stakeholders
- Contribute to measure development and maintenance activities
- Conduct research activities such as literature reviews or environmental scans
- Support PQA measure inquiries
- Get involved with PQA-led panels



Executive Fellowship

The Executive Fellow must hold a doctoral degree (PharmD, MD or PhD) within the United States (or plan to secure a doctoral degree within six months) from an accredited program. Incoming fellows are required to sit for licensure exam(s) and complete all other professional licensing requirements either prior to beginning the fellowship but no later than August 31 of the fellowship year.

PQA seeks individuals with the following attributes:

Commitment to improving the quality of medication use

Strong work ethic

Ability to work independently and in a collaborative environment

Strong writing and public speaking skills

Ability to effectively manage multiple projects concurrently

Availability for virtual and onsite interviews is required. Select candidates will be offered an onsite interview scheduled for early-mid January. Onsite interview travel expenses will be offset by a modest stipend.

Learn more [here](#) about PQA's Executive Fellowship.



Executive Fellowship Alumni



Laurin Dixon, PharmD

2013-2014 Executive Fellow

Currently Vice President of Operational Excellence at Centene Corporation



Maria Scarlatos Eid, PharmD

2014-2015 Executive Fellow

Currently Global Medical Proficiency & External Affairs, Vaccines at Merck



Hannah Fish, PharmD

2015-2016 Executive Fellow

Currently Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)



Mel Nelson, PharmD

2016-2017 Executive Fellow

Currently Senior Director of Program & Information Management at Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)



Nicolette Mehas, PharmD

2017-2018 Executive Fellow

Currently Provider Strategy, Policy, and Operations Expert, Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton

Executive Fellowship Alumni

Hannah Lee Brown, PharmD

2018-2019 Executive Fellow

Currently Associate Director of Market Access
Channel Strategy at Novo Nordisk



Carter Chapman, PharmD

2019-2020 Executive Fellow

Currently Clinical Pharmacist at Prime
Therapeutics



Chris Kotschevar, PharmD

2020-2021 Executive Fellow

Currently Director of Stakeholder Engagement
at Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)



Alexis Caronis, PharmD

2021-2022 Executive Fellow

Currently Associate Director of Drug Safety at
Leaderboard Branding



Jasmine Perry, PharmD

2022-2023 Executive Fellow

Currently Senior Clinical Pharmacist at Blue
Cross Blue Shield North Carolina



Executive Fellowship Alumni



Razanne Oueini, PharmD, MSc

2022-2023 Executive Fellow

Currently Senior Manager of Performance Management at Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)



Oliver Valdez, PharmD, MSPH

2023-2024 Executive Fellow

Currently Senior Manager of Performance Management at Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)

The PQA Executive Fellowship Alumni network expands across the healthcare field. PQA's Executive Fellowship sets the foundation for success in different post-graduate careers. Alumni fellows continue to make an impact and hold roles in different sectors of healthcare.



2024-2025 PQA Executive Fellow

Melanie Lam, PharmD, RPh

Melanie received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy and her Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Emory University.

How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility

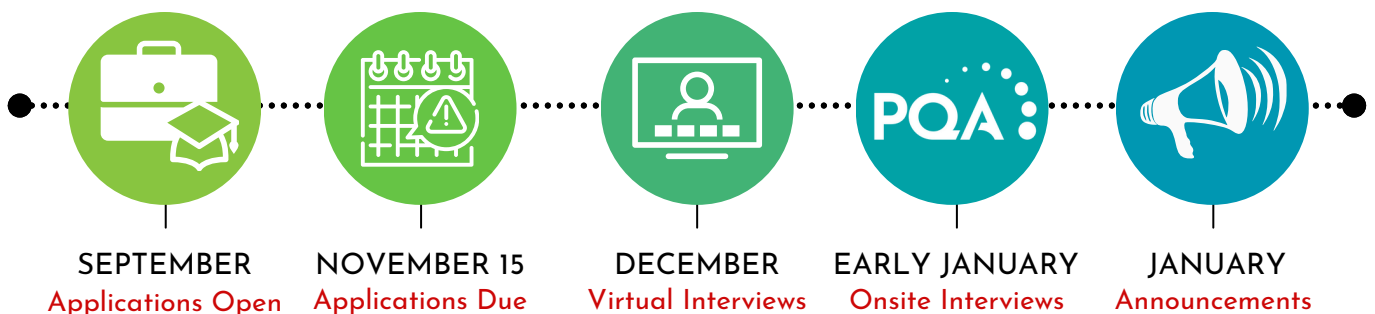
- Healthcare-related doctoral candidate (PharmD, PhD, MD)
- Commitment to improving the quality of medication use
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work independently and in a collaborative environment
- Strong writing and public speaking skills
- Ability to effectively manage multiple projects concurrently

2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an [online application platform](#) accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Official transcript from an academic institution
- Writing sample
- Two letters of recommendation

Timeline



MPH Practicum Program

PQA offers supervised applied practice experience opportunities to Master of Public Health (MPH) students seeking to fulfill their school's MPH graduating requirements. Working from a national platform in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, or remotely, practicum students are immersed in the healthcare quality landscape with a focus on appropriate medication use, health equity, and patient experience.

The program aims to foster the development of skills in one or more of the following areas to support PQA's mission to advance the quality of medication use:

Quality Measurement

Health Services Research and Policy Evaluation

Communications

Stakeholder Engagement

Each practicum offering is tailored to meet the goals and objectives of the student's graduate program while aligning with PQA's current initiatives, and will also include the following:

- Earning PQA's Medication Use Quality Certificate
- Engaging in professional development activities
- Delivering a final presentation to the PQA team

The PQA Summer MPH Practicum Program is a paid applied practice experience opportunity.

Transportation, housing, and all other living costs are the responsibility of the graduate participant.



MPH Practicum Program

Students will have the opportunity to contribute to ongoing activities that support PQA's mission, such as:

Conducting literature reviews

Facilitating informational interviews

Interpreting results of data analysis

Developing dissemination and communication strategies and products

Addressing health disparities through integration of pharmacy and public health perspectives

[Learn more here about PQA's MPH Practicum.](#)



"As a dual degree student completing my PharmD and MPH, I wanted an MPH practicum that intersected both my degrees and focused on medication use safety at a population-based level. I created various dissemination packets related to PQA's frameworks and the SDOH Resource Guide. It was a fantastic experience to see a new side of pharmacy incorporating public health initiatives that impact the quality of care and optimize patient-centered outcomes."

-Katie Quigley, MPH Candidate 2024

"During my time at PQA, I focused on laying the groundwork for future research on pharmacy deserts. This involved conducting a needs assessment and literature review to understand existing definitions of pharmacy deserts... I also created one-page summary reports for quality measure development meetings. Currently, I am working at Health Services Advisory Group, where I am concentrating on health equity initiatives."

-Lee Augenblick, MPH Candidate 2024



How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility

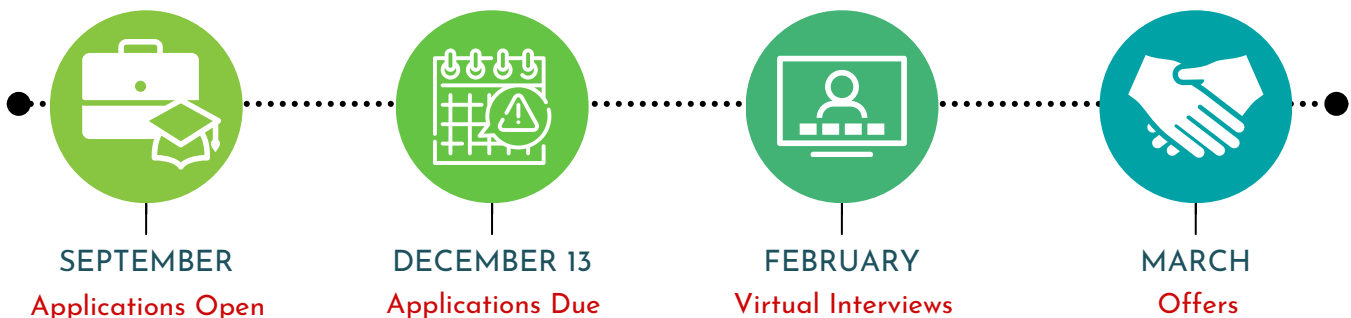
- Students actively enrolled in a CEPH-accredited MPH program during the practicum period
- Students seeking a practicum placement for credit to fulfill their school's practicum requirement

2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:

- One-page cover letter describing
 - Interest in the practicum
 - Career goals and how the PQA MPH Practicum Program will facilitate achieving those goals
 - Potential start date and length of time desired
 - Anticipated weekly commitment
- Curriculum vitae

Timeline



Summer Executive Internship

The PQA Summer Executive Internship is a competitive, paid summer executive internship that provides experience in non-profit association management with an emphasis on healthcare quality and a focus on:

Education

Member Communications

Medication Use Quality Strategic Initiatives

Stakeholder Engagement



"The PQA internship has allowed me to experience and participate in creating quality patient centered care. I had the opportunity to achieve my goal of learning more about pharmacy policy and the behind the scenes of creating and assessing quality measures. In my Capstone Project, I learned the importance of diversity inclusion and will continue to implement the principles I had learned in the future."

-**Bryan Weaver**, PharmD Candidate 2025



"I am grateful to PQA for broadening my perspectives through the Summer Executive Internship. My project in the SDOH resource guide exposed me to real-world solutions to reducing healthcare disparities and gave me the opportunity to discuss these with leaders in the area. I am leaving the internship with a deepened understanding of the need for pharmacy services to be tailored to the patient and quality-based."

-**Fay Hussain**, PharmD Candidate 2024

Summer Executive Internship

Executive interns participate in an 8- to 12-week summer program that takes place in person at PQA headquarters located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area or remotely. Hybrid approaches to the interns' location are also possible. PQA's strategic location provides an opportunity for interns to engage in current healthcare events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the healthcare quality field.

Internship activities vary depending on current initiatives and priorities. PQA works with each Executive Intern to align the experience with desired career goals and interests.

Transportation, housing, and all other living costs are the responsibility of the student.

Learn more [here](#) about PQA's Executive Internship.

“

During my time at PQA, I was able to explore a non-traditional career path in pharmacy and deepen my understanding of non-profit association management, quality organizations, and insurance companies.

-Kit Reimer,
2024 Summer Executive Intern



Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rotation

PQA offers a competitive experiential rotation that provides opportunities in several focus areas, including:

Research & Performance Measurement

Medication Use Quality Education

Non-profit and Association Management

Member Communications



"What truly drew me to PQA was my lack of knowledge of what PQA's work encompasses. I had read on their website that they worked on quality metrics regarding adherence and medication use, but that was the extent of my knowledge. We learned about the importance of all these aspects in school, but I had never thought about who creates these metrics and how they are improved or implemented. Overall, my yearning for new experiences and my desire for learning new ideas really pushed me toward the PQA and their work. "

- **Aneesh Asokan**, PharmD, MBA; 2021 APPE Student

"I was drawn to complete an APPE rotation in association management to gain insight into how diverse perspectives are coordinated to drive advocacy within the pharmacy profession. PQA's unique member organizations represent a diverse spectrum of healthcare stakeholders, reflecting the collaborative nature of healthcare delivery. During my time at PQA, I embraced the organization's multifaceted mission and explored innovative ideas and strategies to improve health outcomes. This rotation offered a tremendous opportunity to channel my curiosity and actively participate in impactful projects that aligned with my interests."

-**Courtney Smith**, PharmD; 2023 APPE Student



APPE Rotation

Selected students may complete a rotation at PQA headquarters located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, or remotely. PQA's strategic location provides an opportunity for students to engage in current healthcare events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the healthcare quality field. The rotation is available as a final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

APPE activities vary depending on current initiatives and priorities. PQA works with each student to align the experience with desired career goals and interests.

Transportation, housing, and all other costs of living are the responsibility of the student.

Learn more [here](#) about PQA's APPE Rotation.



APPE Students in August 2024, worked in-office and virtually.



How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility

Internship:

- Students actively enrolled in a healthcare-related undergraduate or graduate program or have a relevant degree or study concentration, such as health policy or communications

APPE:

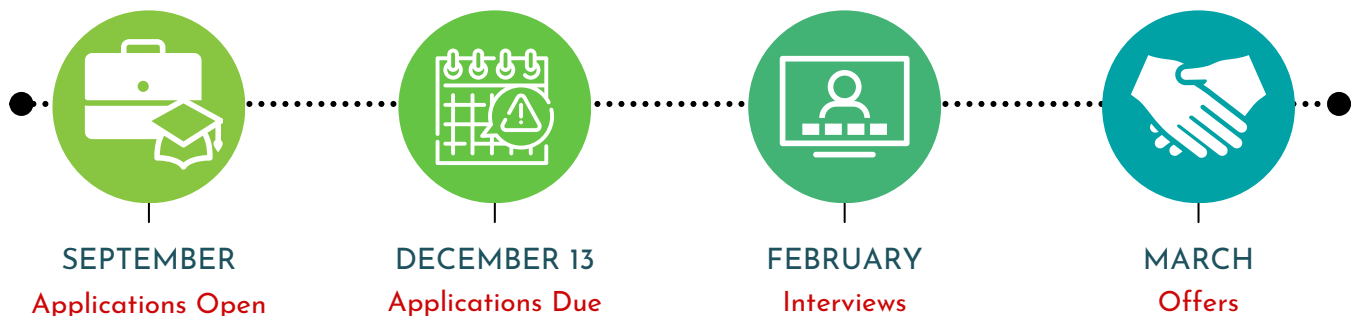
- Final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences

2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform for both the Summer Executive Internship and APPE accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter and curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcript from an academic institution
- One letter of recommendation
- APPE Candidates Only: Letter of approval from school or college's experiential program staff expressing permission to complete PQA's elective rotation

Timeline





Interested in learning more about our programs?

Join us for a PQA Fellowship Webinar on September 19 or October 22 at 8:00pm EST. Register [here](#).

Contact us about additional questions at Fellowship@PQAalliance.org

Learn more about PQA through our website at www.PQAalliance.org

Connect with us

