



2026-2027

AACP Aspiring Academics Program
Application Instructions

American Association of
Colleges of Pharmacy **AACP**

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OVERVIEW OF THE ASPIRING ACADEMICS PROGRAM

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) [Aspiring Academics](#) program is designed to inform and inspire students who are interested in pursuing an academic pharmacy career. Through asynchronous learning modules, mentorship, networking, a group project, involvement with AACP, and attendance at the AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar, the AACP Aspiring Academics program aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of career paths in academic pharmacy. The program will accept up to twenty-eight (28) student-faculty pairs from AACP member schools for 2026-2027 program. The overall program requires approximately 2 hours per month between August 2026 and June 2027 in addition to attendance at the AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar on July 10-13, 2027 in Toronto, Canada. View the [Guide](#) for details.

Program Objectives

At the completion of this program, students should be able to:

1. Describe the various types of pharmacy faculty positions.
2. State the expectations of a pharmacy faculty member regarding scholarship, research, teaching, and service.
3. Describe the process for career advancement in pharmacy academia and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed.
4. Develop a network of peers and mentors interested in academia.
5. Discuss contemporary areas of interest regarding pharmacy education.
6. Develop a poster to showcase knowledge learned about pharmacy education.

Student Eligibility

Qualified applicants will meet the following requirements. Applicants must:

- be enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program at an AACP member institution;
- be enrolled during the **2026-2027** Academic Year as one of the following:
 - a. Obtained candidate status in a Ph.D. program,
 - b. A P3 Pharm.D. student in a 4-year program,
 - c. A P2 Pharm.D. student in an accelerated 3-year program, OR
 - d. A P5 (out of P6) Pharm.D. student in a 0-6 program.
- be in good academic standing;
- have a strong interest in enhancing their preparation for a career in academic pharmacy;
- submit a completed [application](#) by the deadline;
- agree to abide by the terms in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#), including mandatory attendance at the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar; and
- for the 2027 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, student must be eligible to travel to Canada and comply with all university policies related to international travel.

All eligible students are invited to apply. No more than one Pharm.D. and one Ph.D. student will be accepted per institution.

Student Expenses

The student's college or school of pharmacy must agree in advance to provide funding in the form of a fixed stipend or reimbursement model to cover the student's transportation, registration, lodging, and meals to the

2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar, if accepted. AACP will cover the expenses associated with creating group posters for the meeting. Hotel information will be available by April 2027.

Additionally, each year, one student will receive a scholarship to cover expenses associated with attending the annual meeting through the Cynthia Boyle and Raymond Love Aspiring Academics Scholarship. Details can be found on the [Aspiring Academics Fund](#) website.

See Table 1 for an estimated budget based on previous years' costs.

<i>Annual Meeting Registration</i>	\$225
<i>Teachers' Seminar Registration</i>	\$149
<i>Hotel for 3 nights</i>	\$900
<i>Airfare</i>	\$500
<i>Meals for 4 days</i>	\$250
<i>Ground Transportation</i>	\$100
Total	\$2124

MENTORSHIP

Through this program, students will have the opportunity to learn from two distinct faculty member mentors, one from within their own institution (the **home mentor**) and one assigned by AACP (the **AACP group mentor**).

The **home mentor** assists the student in their application to the program and commits to working with the student as they explore academic pharmacy for the duration of the program. They ensure that the student is prepared for each of their group meetings and accompanies their student to the Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar.

The **AACP group mentor** will work with a group of four to five students from various schools. The AACP group mentor will facilitate group discussions following assigned modules, allowing students to learn about academic issues from perspectives outside their home institution. The AACP group mentor will also assist their group in the development of a poster for presentation for the AACP Annual Meeting.

Home Mentor Eligibility

Qualified home mentors at the student's home institution must meet the following requirements:

- be a faculty member at a college/school of pharmacy with an institutional membership;
- hold an [AACP membership](#), which is free of charge for staff and faculty at a college/school of pharmacy with an institutional membership;
- submit a letter of support on behalf of the student as part of the Aspiring Academics application process;
- agree to abide by the terms in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#), including mandatory attendance at the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar; and
- for the 2027 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, mentor must be eligible to travel to Canada and comply with all university policies related to international travel.

Mentor Expenses

Home mentors and AACP group mentors are responsible for all expenses associated with participating in the program, including the meeting registration fees and travel expenses for the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar.

Mentor Participation Requirements

If a home mentor is unable to register and participate the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar for any reason, as required, the mentor is responsible for immediately notifying AACP staff at aspiringacademics@aacp.org and identifying another faculty member at the institution who will agree to fulfill the program requirements in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#) and attend the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar with the student. Students are not permitted to participate in the Aspiring Academics program without a home mentor, nor share a home mentor.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application Deadline

Aspiring Academics Program applications are due by **May 15, 2026**, at 11:59 pm Hawaii Standard Time (HST).

Application Form

https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/Aspiring_Academics_2026

Application Basics

- Select the “Create an Account” button to begin your application.
- You must complete each task before moving onto the next.
- As you progress through the application, you can click the “Back” button to edit previous tasks.
- There are two ways to save a submission, by saving and logging out or by submitting.
 - To save and logout, select the "Save For Later" button located at the top of every page.
 - To submit, select the “Submit” button located at the bottom of the last page of the application.
- You can log back in and continue editing your application until the May 16 deadline.
- Applications, including the faculty mentor letter of support and dean’s form, must be completed and submitted by the deadline to be considered.
- NOTE: You MUST click the “Submit” button to be considered for review.

Application Sections

* Indicates a required field

Task 1: Applicant Information

- **Applicant’s Name ***
- **Current Address ***
- **Email ***
- **Preferred Phone Number ***
- **Institution Name ***
- **Academic Status ***
 - Eligible student statuses during the program period (2026-2027 Academic Year):
 - Obtained candidate status in a Ph.D. program,
 - A P3 Pharm.D. student in a 4-year program,
 - A P2 Pharm.D. student in an accelerated 3-year program, OR
 - A P5 (out of P6) Pharm.D. student in a 0-6 program.
- **Estimated Graduation Year ***
- **Special Life Circumstances**
 - Please describe any special life circumstances (positive or negative) and how they influenced or impacted your academic journey. Responses can include both academic and non-academic circumstances.

Task 2: Invite Faculty Mentor *

One letter of support (recommendation) is required from your pharmacy faculty (home) mentor. The degree to which the faculty mentor believes you will benefit from participating in AACP's Aspiring Academics Program is considered in the review process. The faculty mentor at your home institution must meet the following requirements:

1. be an AACP member,
2. agree to fulfill the requirements as described in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#), and
3. submit a letter of support via the Aspiring Academics application.

The faculty mentor should address the following items in the letter of support.

1. Describe the current mentoring relationship, including how long and how well you have known the student and in what capacity.
2. Describe a specific plan for mentoring the student over the length of the Aspiring Academics program (e.g., timeframe and frequency) as required in the [Guide](#).
3. Use specific examples or evidence to describe the student's attributes and goals, and how they will contribute to a successful career in academia.

Follow these steps:

1. Identify a Faculty Mentor

- Invite your faculty mentor to review the Aspiring Academics requirements as described in the [Guide](#) and to submit a letter of support on your behalf that addresses the bullets above.

2. Add a Faculty Mentor

- Enter the faculty mentor's first name, last name, and email address.
- You must click "Next" at the bottom of the screen to trigger an automated email to be sent to your faculty mentor. This will include a link to upload their letter of support.
- **The email invitation will come from noreply@reviewr.com, and we encourage you to advise your mentor to add that email to their safe sender list. If they do not receive the email, they should contact us at aspiringacademics@aacp.org.**
- Your application will be considered incomplete until the letter of support is submitted.

Task 3: Teaching and Scholarship Experience

Please respond to the questions below about your previous experiences. All of your related experiences in teaching and scholarship should also be reflected in your resume, including the organization name, your position or role, and dates.

If you respond YES to an item, please provide additional details, such as date and organization.

- Have you participated in any scholarship or research activities, including as an undergraduate student? Include any research conducted jointly or individually. Research may include laboratory-based research, social and administrative research, health sciences research, practice-based research, clinical research, and/or scholarship of teaching and learning. *
- Have you served as a tutor in college, a professional program, and/or other setting? *
- Have you served as a research assistant, teaching assistant, and/or lab facilitator? *
- Have you led an instructional session or lead a didactic or lab session for a course? *
- Have you delivered professional presentations to audiences outside of the institution (e.g., conference or K-12 school)? *
- Have you served in a leadership role in a student organization? *
- Have you served on a faculty committee (e.g., admissions committee)? *
- Have you completed a teaching certificate in pharmacy or other area? *
- Do you have other experience as a paid educator (e.g., teacher, coach)? *
- Do you have other educator experiences (e.g., education concentration or electives)? *

Task 4: Applicant Resume Upload *

Your resume is a very important part of your application. It will be used to help differentiate your application from others and allow you to showcase your academic and extracurricular involvement. **Your resume does not need to be exhaustive and should focus on relevant areas of experience.** Review the requirements below before you upload your resume.

- Save and upload your resume as a PDF.
- Limit resume to no more than **3** pages.
- If you use any acronyms, also provide the full name.
- Use headers and/or section titles to organize your resume.
- Briefly describe any leadership roles and/or involvement.
- Include the length of time spent in organizations and/or leadership roles.

Task 5: Applicant Essay *

You are strongly encouraged to compose your essay in a separate word processor, then copy and paste it into the appropriate text box below. Use line breaks (the return key) to separate paragraphs.

Although you may utilize mentors, peers, advisors, and/or artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other online resources for proofreading or editing, the final submission must be a true reflection of your own work and represent your individual ideas, thoughts, and experiences.

Student's Statement of Experience & Future Career Goals

Describe your reasons for wanting to participate in the Program, your career goals, and other academic experiences, leadership examples, and/or personal attributes you would like the reviewers to consider. What do you hope to gain by participating in the Aspiring Academics Program?

Task 6: Dean's Form *

The deans' office within your current college or school of pharmacy must agree in advance to fund your registration and travel to the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar if you are accepted. To affirm the institution's support, you must **download the [Dean's Form](#)** and arrange for the dean of your college or school of pharmacy, or another individual designated by the dean's office (e.g., associate dean of academic affairs), to sign the form to affirm the institution's willingness and ability to support your participation in the program. Once received, upload the signed form to your Aspiring Academics application.

Task 7: Applicant Certification *

Please read and sign below.

By adding my name to the text box below, I certify that all the information and statements I have provided in this application are current, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. My essay is a reflection of my own work and represents my individual ideas, thoughts, and experiences (although I may have utilized mentors, peers, advisors, and/or artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other online resources for proofreading or editing).

For the 2027 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, I certify that I am eligible to travel to Canada and will comply with all university policies related to international travel.

Your certification of this statement serves the same purpose as a legal signature.

- Check that you have read and agree to the statement above.
- Please indicate your agreement by typing in your full name in the space provided.
- Select the date that you reviewed the statement above.

Task 7 is the final task of the application. When ready, click "Submit." You will receive an automated email once your application is submitted.

If needed, you can log back in and continue editing your application until the May 15 deadline.

See the next page for additional instructions.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Eligibility Review

AACP staff will determine that all eligibility requirements have been met. Once requirements are verified, the application will move through the evaluation process.

Evaluation Criteria

AACP leaders will use the following criteria by which all applications will be judged. The evaluation team will look for well thought out, organized, articulate, and complete applications, with evidence that both parties have a strong interest in enhancing the student's preparation for a career in academic pharmacy.

Credentials of the Student

The Teaching and Scholarship Experience (task 3), applicant resume (task 4), and The *Statement of Experience & Future Career Goals* essay (task 5), are used for this criterion. The degree to which the student is motivated to pursue an academic career is evaluated. Evaluation involves an assessment of how closely the personal and academic credentials of the student match with the goal of the Program.

- **Statement of Experience & Future Career Goals**
 - Scholarship Experience
 - Teaching Experience
 - Future Career Goals
 - Spelling and Grammar
 - Student Description of Mentor Relationship

Faculty Mentor's Support of Student

The faculty mentor's description of the student's qualifications and capacity to succeed in this type of program is used for this criterion. The degree to which the faculty mentor describes a plan of mentorship and believes the student will benefit from participating in the Program is evaluated.

1. **Mentor Engagement**
 - Degree of current mentor engagement and specific plan (e.g., timeframe, frequency) for mentoring the applicant for the duration of the Program.
2. **Evidence of Applicant's Attributes**
 - How well the mentor describes the applicant's attributes and goals as they relate to a potential for a successful career in academic pharmacy.
3. **Potential for Success in Academic Pharmacy**
 - The applicant's potential for success in an academic pharmacy career based on the mentor's letter.

ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

The following materials will be due by July 1, 2026, for all students accepted into the Aspiring Academics program.

1. **Accepted Students:** If you are accepted, you must:
 - Confirm your willingness to participate in the Aspiring Academics program and fulfill the participant requirements described in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#).
 - Join AACP as a student member. The fee is \$15 per year. To join, go to <https://www.aacp.org/article/student-membership>.
2. **Home Mentor:** If you are accepted, AACP staff will contact your selected home mentor directly to notify them of your acceptance and confirm the mentor's willingness to do the following:
 - Fulfill the requirements in the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#).
 - Attend the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar.
 - Identify an alternate mentor in the event they are no longer able to serve in the role.
3. **Dean's Office:** If you are accepted, AACP staff will contact the dean's office at your institution to notify them of your acceptance and confirm the following:
 - You are still in good academic standing in your program.
 - The institution will support your registration and travel to the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar and provide all travel policies and procedures associated with the funding (e.g., fixed stipend versus reimbursement) directly to you as the student.

Participant Promotion

AACP will announce the AACP Aspiring Academics in press releases, publications, trade journals, and/or newsletters as appropriate, and recognize the AACP Aspiring Academic cohort and mentors at the AACP Annual Meeting.

Important Dates

View the Aspiring Academics [Guide](#) for additional details, dates, and forms:

Mar 23, 2026:	The program application opens to students
May 15, 2026:	The program application closes to students
Jul 1, 2026:	Deadline for additional materials from accepted students, their faculty mentors, and their institution to confirm student's eligibility to participate
By mid-Jul 2026:	Program decisions are released to students
Aug 2026-Jun 2027:	Virtual program participation
Aug 26, 2026:	Kick-off event (6-7 pm ET, 5-6 pm CT, 4-5 pm MT, 3-4 pm PT)
Jan 19, 2027:	Mid-Year Professional Networking Event (6-8 pm ET, 5-7 pm CT, 4-6 pm MT, 3-5 pm PT)
Jul 10-13, 2027:	AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar & in-person event (required)

Contact Information

Please contact the AACP student affairs team with any questions about the Aspiring Academics program or application process at aspiringacademics@aacp.org.

DEAN'S FORM: AACP ASPIRING ACADEMICS APPLICATION

Instructions for CEO Dean's Office:

The student listed below is applying to the 2026-2027 AACP Aspiring Academics program. Please sign the form to affirm the institution's willingness to cover the student's registration and travel expenses to attend the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar, if accepted. Once signed, return the form to the student.

The dean of the college or school of pharmacy, or another individual designated by the dean's office (e.g., associate dean of academic affairs), may sign this form for multiple students who are applying to the Aspiring Academics program. However, the funding obligations will be limited to no more than one Pharm.D. and one Ph.D. student per year. The Aspiring Academics program is limited to one Pharm.D. and one Ph.D. student per institution and a total of up to 28 students in this year's cohort. The signed form will only be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate and will not be considered during the application review process.

If the student is accepted, AACP staff will contact the dean's office again in summer 2026 to confirm the student remains in good academic standing, as defined by the institution, and to reaffirm the institution's willingness to fund the student's registration and travel for the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar. AACP will not cover the meeting travel or registration expenses for any faculty mentors.

Instructions for the Student:

Enter your name and the name of your faculty mentor in the space below. Arrange for the dean, or another individual designated by the dean's office (e.g., associate dean of academic affairs), to review and sign the form. Once the signed form is received, upload the completed form to your application by the deadline.

By signing this form, the institution agrees to the following participation terms:

- The institution affirms the student is currently in good academic standing in the program.
- If the student is accepted into this year's AACP Aspiring Academics program, the institution agrees to fund the student's registration and travel to the 2027 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers' Seminar and provide all travel policies associated with the funding (e.g., fixed stipend versus reimbursement) directly to the student.
- For the 2027 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, student and home mentor must be eligible to travel to Canada and comply with all university policies related to international travel.

Name of Student:

Name of Faculty Mentor:

Name of Dean or Dean Representative:

Position:

Signature:

Date: