2025-2026

Community Pharmacy Student Scholars (CPSS) Program
Guide

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OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY PHARMACY STUDENT SCHOLARS (CPSS) PROGRAM

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Transformation Center and the Academia-Community Transformation (ACT) Pharmacy Collaborative launches the **Community Pharmacy Student Scholars (CPSS)** program Cohort 2 designed to inform and inspire students from all backgrounds who are interested in pursuing a career in community pharmacy. Through asynchronous learning modules, mentorship, networking, a group poster presentation, workshop training on leadership and self-awareness and networking event at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting, the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars (CPSS) program aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of career paths in community pharmacy. The program will accept up to 20 students from colleges and schools of pharmacy for the 2025-2026 program. The overall program requires approximately 3 hours per month between September 2025 and June 2026 in addition to attendance at the AACP Annual Meeting on July 18-21, 2026, in Grapevine, Texas.

Sponsorship

A big thanks to our Champion sponsor, CPESN® USA, and to our Leading sponsor, Walgreens, for their generous support of the 2025-2026 Community Pharmacy Student Scholars program. Their commitment will have a significant impact on our ability to deliver meaningful, high-quality programming to this year's cohort.

Program Objectives

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

1. Describe the various roles and responsibilities of a community pharmacist in patient care and scope of practice expansion.
2. Describe the process for career advancement in community pharmacy and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to build a sustainable career pathway.
3. Develop a network of peers and mentors interested in community pharmacy practice.
4. Discuss contemporary areas of interest regarding community pharmacy practice advancement.
5. Develop a poster to showcase a vision for the future of community pharmacy and a career development plan in community pharmacy.

Student Eligibility

Qualified applicants will meet the following requirements. Applicants must:

- be enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program at an AACP member institution;
- be enrolled in an anticipated graduation class of 2028;
- be in good academic standing in the Pharm.D. program;
- have a strong interest in enhancing their skills and preparation for a career in community pharmacy practice;

- submit a completed application by the deadline;
- must identify two mentors, one faculty mentor from their institution and one practicing mentor from a local community pharmacy practice, prior to completing the application; and
- agree to abide by the terms in the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars Guide, including mandatory attendance at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.

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

Student Expenses

The student is responsible for covering expenses related to transportation, lodging, and meals to the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting, if accepted. AACP will cover the expenses associated with creating group posters for the 2026 meeting as well as provide complimentary registration to the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting. See Table 1 for an estimated budget. See Table 1 for an estimated budget.

Table 1: Estimated Cost for Student to Attend Annual Meeting	
Annual Meeting Registration	$225
Hotel for 2 nights	$600
Airfare	$500
Ground Transportation	$100
Total	**$1425**

MENTORSHIP OVERVIEW AND ELIGIBILITY

Through this program, students will have the opportunity to learn from two distinct mentors, one from within their own institution (the **faculty mentor**) and one within a local community pharmacy practice site identified by the student, their community practice mentor or AACP (the **practice mentor**).

The **faculty mentor** commits to working with the students as they explore community pharmacy practice advancement for the duration of the program. They ensure that the student is prepared for each of their group meetings and provides feedback regarding the student's program deliverables.

Eligibility:
Faculty mentors must meet the following requirements:

1. the faculty mentor must be a member of AACP and have experience/involvement with research, teaching, and service in community pharmacy,
2. submit a letter of support on behalf of the student as part of the CPSS application on the ReviewR platform,
3. agree to abide by the terms in the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars Guide, and
4. Required to attend the program kick-off meeting and encouraged to attend the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting to participate in a training workshop on self-awareness and leadership.

The **practice mentor** commits to working with the student in the environment of their community practice site, immersing the student in the day-to-day responsibilities of a community pharmacist. In addition to this, they assist the student with designing a project around community pharmacy practice

advancement that would be applicable to advancing the transformation of the community pharmacy practice site.

Eligibility:
Practice mentors must meet the following requirements:

1. the practice mentor must have an active community pharmacy practice,
2. submit a letter of support on behalf of the student as part of the CPSS application on the ReviewR platform,
3. agree to abide by the terms in the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars Guide, and
4. Required to attend the program kick-off meeting and encouraged to attend the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting to participate in a training workshop on self-awareness and leadership.

Mentor Expenses
Mentors are responsible for all expenses associated with participating in the program, including the meeting registration fees and travel expenses for the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.

FACULTY AND PRACTICE MENTOR'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role and responsibilities for BOTH mentors
1. **October 6, 2025, at 4:00 PM EST:** Attend the kick-off meeting for all CPSS Scholars participants and mentors.

2. Meet with the students following their scheduled programming sessions to discuss module topics, promote student reflection and answer questions. Student to facilitate scheduling this meeting.

   a. Recommended schedule to meet with the student (30-minutes each):

      i. **December 2:** Deadline to meet about Module 1
      ii. **February 18:** Deadline to meet about Module 2
      iii. **May 12:** Deadline to meet about Module 3

   b. Each module will include discussion intended to focus on reflection of the modules, guided by a set of questions developed by the advisory committee and included in the CPSS Guide.

3. Both mentors will provide recommendations and guidance to the student about their group poster (this may be done via email) and provide feedback on their final group poster prior to submission. **By June 1, 2026:** The student will work with both mentors to develop their individual career development plan related to ranking their APPE rotations as well as planning their post-graduation pathway in community pharmacy practice. AACP will provide a sample template. The completed plan must be submitted to AACP.

4. **By July 1, 2026:** Both mentors to submit a signed mentor attestation form to AACP.

5. **July 2026:** We encourage both mentors to attend the AACP Annual Meeting with the student at your own expense, participate in the workshop training opportunity on leadership and self-awareness, attend the group poster presentation, and the networking event to celebrate graduation of the students.

6. Complete end of program evaluation and ensure student completion.

Role and responsibilities for FACULTY mentors

1. **The faculty mentor** will assist the student in choosing from among the list of AACP [experiential activities](#) and debrief with them following involvement.
2. **The faculty mentor** will help prepare the student for what to expect in attending and presenting at a large conference (the AACP Annual Meeting).

Role and responsibilities for PRACTICE mentors

1. **The practice mentor** will provide the student with any opportunities within their community pharmacy practice site to learn more about the scope of practice in community pharmacy.
2. **The practice mentor** will provide the student with an opportunity to get involved in the planning of new services or program implementation at your community pharmacy.

STUDENT PARTICIPANT'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Application Requirements

1. Read and follow the application instructions for the AACP Community Pharmacy Student Scholars Program.
2. Identify a faculty member at your home institution and a practice mentor from a local community pharmacy practice who agrees to mentor you throughout the program, as described in the Guide.
3. Work with both identified mentors to prepare the application and each mentor to individually submit a letter of support (as part of your application)

Acceptance Requirements

The following materials are due by **October 10, 2025**, for students who are accepted into the CPSS program.

Accepted Students: If you are accepted, you must:

1. Confirm your willingness to participate in the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars program and fulfill the participant requirements described in this Community Scholars Guide.
2. Join AACP as a student member. The fee is $15 per year. To join, go to https://www.aacp.org/article/student-membership.
3. AACP staff manager will notify your selected faculty mentor and practice mentor directly to notify them of your acceptance and confirm their willingness to fulfill the requirements in the Guide.

Participation Requirements for Students

1. **October 6, 2025:** Attend the kick-off meeting for all CPSS participants and mentors.
2. Complete the required deliverables (group poster presentation, and individual career development plan related to ranking their APPE rotations as well as planning their post-graduation pathway in community pharmacy practice).
3. With guidance from your faculty and practice mentor rank your preferred list of AACP experiential activities in which to be involved and submit to AACP by **December 2, 2025**. At least one hour of AACP experience is required by June 15, 2026. Schedule a debrief with your mentors following the experience. Confirm with your AACP Staff Manager when your experiential activity has been completed.
4. Collaborate with your student group to prepare your group poster to present at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.
5. Complete requirements for Modules 1-3 as described in the Guide:
    a. Complete pre-module assignments prior to each session.
    b. Participate in the two-hour virtual session for each module
        i. **Module 1 - November 4, 2025**
        ii. **Module 2 - January 14, 2026**
        iii. **Module 3 - April 14, 2026**
    c. Complete post-module assignments, and written reflection after attending each module.
    d. Meet with your faculty mentor and practice mentor to discuss each module and written reflection prior to the due dates outlined in the timeline section below.
    e. Complete all above requirements by the following due dates:

> i. Module 1 - **Due by December 2**
> ii. Module 2 - **Due by February 18**
> iii. Module 3 - **Due by May 12**

6. Meet with your **faculty mentor and practice mentor after each virtual session** to discuss the module, the written reflections, discuss the poster, and ask questions.
   a. Complete the mentor meetings by the module deadline (30-minute meetings):
      i. Module 1 - **Due by December 2**
      ii. Module 2 - **Due by February 18**
      iii. Module 3 - **Due by May 12**
7. **By February 18, 2026:** Provide the final group poster topic after discussion with your group of assigned students and your mentors.
8. **By April 2026:** Submit a group poster presentation abstract for presentation at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.
9. **In May 2026**: Work with your faculty mentor to prepare for what to expect at the AACP Annual Meeting.
10. **By June 1, 2026**: With guidance from your mentors, complete all deliverable requirements, including the group poster and an individual career development plan related to ranking their APPE rotations as well as planning their post-graduation pathway in community pharmacy practice. AACP will provide a sample template.
11. **July 18-21, 2026:** Attend the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting with your mentors (encouraged for mentors).
    a. Participate in recommended programming.
    b. Participate in a workshop training focused on leadership and self-awareness.
    c. Attend the networking event to celebrate graduation from the program at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.
    d. Attend the required poster sessions at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting

Completion Requirements

Student participants who successfully completes all the required components will receive a Community Pharmacy Student Scholars Digital Certificate at the end of the program and be honored during an in-person event at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting. Individuals who earn the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars certificate may add it to their professional portfolio, resume, LinkedIn profile, and other professional platforms.

To qualify for this certificate, you must do the following:

- Participate in all required activities,
- Complete all module assignments,
- Meet and actively engage with your mentors,
- Substantively contribute to the deliverables,
- Attend the AACP Annual Meeting in-person, and
- Be professional in all program interactions.
- Complete the program evaluation.

Your mentors will be asked to submit a signed mentor attestation form on your behalf to convey that you have completed the program as intended (e.g., prepared for discussions).

If AACP determines in discussion with your mentors that you are not fulfilling the program's requirements, you may be dismissed from the program and ineligible to earn the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars certificate. Please contact your mentors and/or AACP as soon as possible if you are having trouble fulfilling these program requirements for any reason, so we may determine how best to assist you.

Post-Program Requirements

All Community Pharmacy Student Scholars are required to complete an online evaluation form immediately following graduation from the program. AACP will share a link to the evaluation form by July 24, 2026. Community Pharmacy Student Scholars must submit the completed evaluation form by **August 15, 2026.**

Evaluation excerpts may be used in AACP-related publications (*Academic Pharmacy Now*) and/or forwarded to AACP leaders. We will request your feedback on the following items:

- In-person Community Pharmacy Student Scholars programming
- Virtual program components, including mentorship support
- Your reasons for pursuing a career in community pharmacy
- The impact of the program on your educational and professional goals

Community Pharmacy Student Scholars may also be asked to participate in other AACP surveys, forums, or discussions during the Annual Meeting and throughout the year with the intent of advancing the profession and student engagement in the association.

AACP Contact Information

Please contact Nidhi Gandhi-Patel, Director of Transformation and Academic Initiatives with any questions about the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars program or application process at ngpatel@aacp.org.

MODULE 1

Overview: Career Pathways in Community Pharmacy

MODULE 2

Expectations: Community Engagement and Action

MODULE 3

Process: Career Advancement and Sustainability in Community Pharmacy

More Information on pre- and post-assignments, guided mentor discussion questions and written reflection prompts to follow.

DELIVERABLES

Group Poster

Each student will work in a group and with their mentors to complete one group poster addressing an emerging hot topic or need within community pharmacy practice. A list of potential topics will be provided for the groups to choose from. The purpose of the poster is to assist you in better understanding the current landscape of community pharmacy practice and identify opportunities for advancement. Your mentors will guide you through the group poster project. The project does not require the group to carry out research and should not need Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Each group poster, if received by the deadline and meets the guidelines, will be printed by AACP. Each group will present their poster during the assigned poster session (date/time TBD) at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting. The groups will receive feedback and evaluation on their posters.

Poster Instructions for Student Participants

1. Collaborate with your student group and mentors to discuss potential poster topics in January/February. (meeting date will vary by group)
2. The group must select a preferred topic and at least one alternate poster topic by **February 18**.
3. AACP will confirm poster topics by **March 1** to ensure each group poster is unique.
4. Conduct independent work on the group poster and consult with your mentors, as needed.
5. Attend virtual meetings with your student group and mentors between January and May to discuss the poster project, its progress and ensure it is ready for production/presentation.
6. Present the group poster during the assigned poster session at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.

Poster Instructions for Faculty and Practice Mentors

1. Suggest ideas to add to the suggested poster project list (this may be done via email), which shall be shared with the student groups.
2. Schedule a one-hour virtual (e.g., Zoom, Teams) meeting in October and begin discussing potential poster presentation topics.
3. Meet with the students to discuss the progress of the poster project and provide any assistance if needed. Work with students to ensure poster presentation adheres to guidelines and best practice materials. (30 min check-in during the Spring. See schedule for deadlines).
4. Schedule 1-2 virtual (e.g., Zoom, Teams) meetings with student group between January and May to review poster progress and ensure it is ready for production/presentation.
5. (Optional) Attend the AACP Annual Meeting, including the networking and poster sessions. Provide evaluation of group posters at the meeting using an assigned rubric.

Emerging Hot Topics in Community Pharmacy

Each group may choose a preferred and alternate poster topic from the list that will be provided or identify new topics. This list will be provided soon.

Individual Career Development Plan

Description:

Worksheet related to ranking their APPE rotations as well as planning their post-graduation pathway in community pharmacy practice.

Individual Career Development Plan Instructions for Students

1. The template will be provided soon for the students to download and complete their Individual Career Development Plan by **June 1**.

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES

By October 2025, AACP staff will share a form that provides a list of available AACP experiential activities to choose from. With guidance from your home and AACP group mentors, students will be asked to rank your preferred list of AACP experiential activities in which to be involved.

Experiential activities will be completed at various times throughout the year. Once completed, students are instructed to schedule a debrief with their faculty and practice mentor following the experience and confirm with the AACP Staff Manager when the activity has been completed.

Please note there is a variation in the types and time commitment of activities. At least one hour of AACP experience is required by **June 15, 2026**.

Examples include:

- Attend one of the following [AACP Committee](#) Meetings (1 hour)
    - ACT Pharmacy Collaborative ACTion Hour Webinar
    - AACP Professional Affairs Committee Meeting
    - AACP Strategic Engagement Committee Meeting
    - CPESN Student Leads Webinar
    - ACT Centers of Excellence Convening
    - ACT Educators Badge Networking Meeting
- Other (Attend an AACP event/committee not listed with my faculty mentor)

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Student Time Commitment

Participation in the virtual aspects of this program requires the following estimated time commitment for students.

Also see the schedule on the next page for due dates to mark on your calendars.

#	Virtual Activity Description	Dates	Type of Activity	Minutes per Activity	Count	Total Minutes
1	Join an AACP kick-off event for all participants & mentors	October 6	AACP	90 min	1	90 min (1 and half hours)
2	Attend two-hour virtual sessions for each module (Module 1, 2, 3)	November 4 January 14 April 14	Modules	120 min	3	360 min (6 hours)
3	Complete and submit pre- and post-assignments for each module 1-3 and written reflections	By Dec 2 - #1 By Feb 18 - #2 By May 12 - #3	Modules	60 min	3	180 min (3 hours)
4	Meet with faculty and practice mentor to discuss modules 1-3 and written reflection (together or separately as schedule allows)	By Dec 2 - #1 By Feb 18 - #2 By May 12 - #3	Mentor	30 min	3	90 min (1 and half hours)
5	Meet with faculty and practice mentor and assigned student group to discuss poster project topic	November-February	Poster	60 min	5	300 min (5 hours)
6	Conduct independent work for poster project	Jan-Jun	Poster	30 min	6	180 min (3 hours)
7	Observe or attend at least one AACP experiential event plus miscellaneous	Sep-June	AACP	60 min	1	60 min (1 hours)
8	Create and review an individual career development plan with both mentors	Apr-June	Plan	30 min	4	120 min (2 hours)
9	Final program evaluation	July-August	AACP	60 min	1	60 min (1 hour)
TOTAL TIME COMMITMENT						
TOTAL = 24 hours or approximately 2-3 hours per month between September 2025 and June 2026 in addition to attendance the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting on July 18-21, 2026.						

Schedule

Schedule for 2025-2026 CPSS Program		
Date	**Type**	**Comments**
July 15	Application	Application opens
August 26	Application	Application closes
September 2 – September 10	Application	Review process
September 16	Application	AACP released program decisions to students
October 6	Virtual Event	Required kick-off meeting for students and mentors
October 10	AACP	Additional materials for accepted students due to AACP – Join AACP as a student member
November 4	Module 1	Attend Module #1 two-hour virtual session
December 2	Module 1	Deadline to complete module assignments, reflection, & meet with mentors. Rank your preferred experiential activity.
January 14	Module 2	Attend Module #2 two-hour virtual session
January-February	Poster	AACP group meeting #1 about poster
February 18	Poster	Preferred and alternate poster topics due to AACP
February 18	Module 2	Deadline to complete module assignments, reflection, & meet with mentors
March 1	Poster	Group poster topics confirmed by AACP
April 14	Module 3	Attend Module #3 two-hour virtual session
May 12	Module 3	Deadline to complete module assignments, reflection, & meet with mentors
April	Poster	AACP group meeting #3 about poster
April 20	Poster	Deadline for final poster abstract submission through AACP Annual Meeting Call for Poster Abstracts (date subject to change)
May	Poster	Group poster template and content creation
Jun 1	Career Plan	Career development plan due to AACP
Jun 15	AACP	AACP experiential requirement deadline
July 1	Mentors Only	Faculty mentor to submit mentor attestation form to AACP
July 18	AACP	Arrival in Texas for the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting.
July 18-21	AACP	2026 AACP Annual Meeting
August 15	Evaluation	Post-program evaluation due to AACP

Appendix A

Mentor Attestation Form

MENTOR ATTESTATION FORM

I attest that _____has successfully completed all requirements of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ACT Community Pharmacy Student Scholars (CPSS) as listed below.

1. Attendance at the Community Pharmacy Student Scholars virtual kick-off meeting
2. Completion of 3 online learning modules and reflective assignments
3. Collaboration with group and mentors to create and present a group poster at the 2026 AACP Annual Meeting
4. Observation/participation in at least one AACP experiential activity
5. Creation of an individual career development plan and review with faculty and practice mentor

_____

Printed Name

_____

Signature

_____

Date