

SPEP Program: 2020 Cycle - Year in Review

A total of 183 rotations, each consisting of a total of 160 hours of structured, practical experiential training, were completed by pharmacy students during the 2020 SPEP cycle. Of these, 69 took place in hospitals, 35 in community pharmacies, and 70 in primary health care clinics. In addition, 13 elective rotations were offered: 4 rotations at the Qatar Poison Center at Sidra and 9 industry rotations at Qatar Pharma. In addition to onsite faculty support, a total of 93 clinical preceptors participated in teaching our students during these rotations. We were not able to offer international rotations in the 2020 SPEP cycle.

Despite the challenges that our experiential program faced during the 2020 cycle due to the COVID19 pandemic, including not being able to offer international rotations, and having to cancel the summer rotation, several initiatives were launched in the 2020 SPEP cycle, including:

1. CPD points for precepting our students were awarded to preceptors and to site coordinators, to recognize the time and efforts dedicated to accommodate, teach and mentor our students during their rotations.
2. Winter term SPEP rotation were offered to compensate for the summer rotations that were canceled and to offer students for making up missed rotations before graduation. This added term for SPEP rotation will continue to be offered in future SPEP cycles.
3. New SPEP assignment plan, mapped to NAPRA competencies. Several new assignments were introduced, including the SWOT analysis, Medication Class Review, and a reflection on the Scope of Pharmacy Practice in Qatar. This new plan provides the preceptors with more active opportunities to engage in the students' learning process during the rotation.
4. Development and implementation of guidelines for experiential education during COVID19, in line with Qatar University and the College of Pharmacy precautionary measures, in collaboration with our experiential education partners in hospitals, clinics and community pharmacies, to protect the students and the preceptors from COVID19 infection.

The experiential program at the College of Pharmacy continues to be committed to preceptor development activities. Including preceptor development sessions, SPEP orientations for new preceptors, and new site assessment and development. Two virtual orientation sessions during the 2020 SPEP cycle were offered to a total 32 new preceptors, which represents a record in the number of new SPEP preceptors recruited in just one SPEP cycle. There were also full on-site orientations to new SPEP sites, with a total of 20 sites visit conducted (10 in hospital and 10 in primary health clinics). We also continue to provide our preceptors with membership to the online continuing education platform know as Collaborative Education Institution (CEI) which offers webinars and online courses, many of which are accredited, and for which completion certificates can be submitted to QCHP for CPD points. Additionally, this subscription is linked to e-Value, the experiential program electronic management system, with improved tracking capacity for their CE requirements.

We thank the CPH preceptor community for their efforts in sharing their valuable experience with our students and for their precepting commitment throughout the years, and more specially during the COVID19 pandemic