

PRECEPTOR NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

DSU NDSU Partnership

Foundations of Mental Health
Certificate

Preceptor Involvement
Opportunities

Precepting the Challenging
Student – Inappropriate
Dress

CAP Center Updates

Preceptor Development
Opportunities – CEImpact

Residency Stats

Upcoming Events



DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY AND NDSU SIGN STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND PHARMACY EDUCATION AND FILL WORKFORCE GAPS

NDSU and Dickinson State University are creating two new academic pathways into NDSU's Doctor of Pharmacy program.

In a landmark agreement bridging North Dakota's eastern and western borders, North Dakota State University and Dickinson State University (DSU) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create two new academic pathways into NDSU's Doctor of Pharmacy program.

The agreement establishes a three-year traditional pre-pharmacy pathway and a two-year Early Assurance Pathway for DSU students, offering a streamlined route to pharmacy education while allowing students to remain in western North Dakota. Select courses will be delivered in HyFlex or online formats, ensuring accessibility and flexibility for DSU students.

"This is a border-to-border partnership that reflects our shared commitment to serving students and communities across North Dakota," said NDSU President David Cook. "As the state's only pharmacy program, we're proud to work with DSU to keep talented students here and prepare them to meet critical workforce needs."

DSU President Scott Molander echoed the significance of the agreement, saying "This collaboration opens doors for our students and strengthens the healthcare infrastructure in western North Dakota. It's a major step forward for both institutions and for the state."

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The initiative is already generating excitement among pharmacists across North Dakota, who see it as a vital step toward addressing workforce shortages in rural and underserved areas. There are currently about 30 active job postings for pharmacists across the state, with more than half of them located in western North Dakota, underscoring the need for locally trained professionals.

"North Dakota has a growing need for qualified pharmacists, especially in rural communities," said Brandi Ollerman, pharmacist at Medicine Shoppe of Dickinson. "This partnership between DSU and NDSU is exactly what our state needs. It creates a clear path for students to enter the profession while staying in their home communities and ensures we have the next generation of pharmacists ready to serve."

Under the agreement, DSU students who meet academic requirements will be eligible to apply to NDSU's Doctor of Pharmacy program after completing the designated coursework. High-achieving students may qualify for early assurance program (EAP), with NDSU providing select pharmacy courses in formats accessible from DSU's campus. The program officially launches in the spring semester and is expected to attract students interested in a flexible, community-focused pharmacy education.

For more information, prospective students can contact the admissions offices at Dickinson State University or North Dakota State University.

Adapted from: [NDSU News 10/29/25](#)

NEW! NDSU FOUNDATIONS OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE CERTIFICATE

Why choose to complete a certificate in Foundations of Mental Health Care?

Earning a certificate in the foundations of mental health care can be a game-changer whether you're pursuing a career in psychology, social work, education, or even just want to be more informed and compassionate citizens. Here's why it's worth considering:

High demand, high impact: Mental health professionals are in growing demand, with job growth projected to outpace many other fields. A certificate can fast-track students into meaningful roles like behavioral health technician, peer support specialist, or case manager.

Real-world skills: These programs teach practical tools—like how to recognize signs of anxiety, depression, or trauma, and how to respond effectively. That's valuable in any setting, from classrooms to clinics to community centers.

Career flexibility: A certificate can open doors to work in hospitals, schools, nonprofits, or government agencies. It also strengthens applications for graduate programs in counseling, psychology, or social work.

Personal growth: Understanding mental health helps build empathy, communication skills, and emotional intelligence—qualities that benefit every relationship, not just professional ones.

Quick and accessible: This program is online and can be completed in under a year, making it a flexible option for busy students or professionals.

It's not just about getting a credential—it's about becoming someone who can make a real difference.

Graduate Courses

CNED 606

Psychopathology in the Health Professions
3 credits

PHRM 668

Psychopharmacology for Health professionals
3 credits

CNED 705

Foundations of Mental Health Practice
3 credits

Total Credits 9

Visit the [Foundations of Mental Health Program page](#)

PRECEPTOR INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE NDSU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

By Dr. Makenna Hesch, Class of 2025

Looking to become more involved in the NDSU School of Pharmacy program? Explore the resources below to get started!



Participate in pharmacy student recruitment

On the homepage in CORE, there are a variety of NDSU pharmacy recruitment materials to help share information with high school students in your community. These resources include PowerPoint presentations about the program, printable handouts showcasing a day in the life of a pharmacy student and pharmacy career opportunities, a digital booklet featuring pharmacy students, alumni, and student organizations, and more!

Contact the co-directors of recruitment Dr. Lisa Richter (lisa.richter.1@ndsu.edu) or Dr. Jeanne Frenzel (jeanne.frenzel@ndsu.edu) for additional resources or with any questions. Additionally, a tote containing directions and materials needed to compound nonprescription scented lotions with students is available for check-out. Reach out to Rachel Zachariason (rachel.zachariason@ndsu.edu) with the desired dates and number of students participating to get started.

Deliver a faculty development presentation

If you would be interested in speaking or presenting at an NDSU faculty development meeting, please reach out to the Vice Chair of the Pharmacy Practice Department, Dr. Lisa Richter (lisa.richter.1@ndsu.edu). Some examples of topics faculty would appreciate learning more about are hot topics in clinical practice, research, and artificial intelligence. This is a great opportunity to engage with colleagues and contribute to the professional development of the faculty team.

Attend events

Check out the School of Pharmacy's upcoming events, including the Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony, CHHS Scholarship Program, and the PharmD Hooding Ceremony on the [College events](#) page. These events offer great opportunities to connect with peers, alumni, and faculty while celebrating the achievements of our students.

Establish or donate to a student scholarship

Check out the [CHHS alumni](#) page for additional donation opportunities, such as the Dean Charles D. Peterson Pharmacy Scholarship Fund or Sudro Society Pharmacy Program Fund, for as little as \$25.

To establish an endowed scholarship, a minimum of \$25,000 is required, which will fund a \$1,000 annual award. This amount can be paid in full at once or over five years. For an expendable scholarship, the minimum contribution is \$5,000, which can also be paid over five years. There is a 5% gift fee on all donations.



Join the Pharmacy Alumni Advisory Board

The Board, established in 2003, consists of NDSU graduates who support the mission, vision, and core values of the University and College and assist in addressing issues vital to the future success and quality of the program. If you are an alumni of the NDSU School of Pharmacy and are interested in joining the Board, please contact Kristi Weston (kristi.weston@ndsu.edu).

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Speak for a pharmacy student organization

Many pharmacy student organizations seek volunteer speakers for their events, meetings, and initiation ceremonies each semester. If you're interested in speaking at one of these occasions, please contact Jamie Berg (jamie.l.berg@ndsu.edu), who will forward your information to the current organization presidents.



Get Involved with the NDSU Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy (CAP Center)

The CAP Center welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on initiatives that advance pharmacy practice, with the goal of improving patient care and population health. Visit their [website](#) to collaborate on potential projects or proposals, whether you have an idea in its early stages or an implementation that requires further development. Also check out the CAP Center's upcoming events, latest news, and additional resources.

Advertise your job opportunities

If your pharmacy is seeking to hire pharmacy students, please reach out to Jamie Berg (jamie.l.berg@ndsu.edu) with details on how to apply for the position and specify the classes of pharmacy students you are looking for (i.e. pre-pharmacy, P1, P2, P3). Your information will be distributed to the relevant NDSU pharmacy student classes.

Guest lecture in a pharmacy class

Contact the Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Amy Werremeyer (amy.werremeyer@ndsu.edu), if you are interested in being a guest lecturer for a pharmacy practice course. Please see the [PharmD curriculum page](#) for current classes. Guest lectures require expertise in the course topic and selection will be based on curriculum needs of the department.

Become a preceptor

If you know someone interested in precepting NDSU pharmacy students, please share the [Pharmacy Preceptor Information website](#) with them for the application and additional information.

Unique benefits of becoming an NDSU School of Pharmacy preceptor include access to online preceptor training and ACPE accredited continuing pharmacy education through The Collaborative Education Institute (CEI), access to NDSU Library Services, and the title of "Adjunct Faculty in the NDSU School of Pharmacy".

PRECEPTING THE CHALLENGING STUDENT – INAPPROPRIATE DRESS

By APPE Director Dr. Teri Undem

Fill in the blank... "I can't believe my student showed up wearing/looking like that!"

My first pharmacist position had a strict dress code. Black pants, black, polishable shoes, and of course, white smock and name tag. The only room for personal expression was with the shirt. The only rule with the shirt; no cleavage.

Dress code expectations have evolved from the 1990s, but there are still expectations for appropriate attire for pharmacists and pharmacy students. The School of Pharmacy (SOP) does have a Lab and Experiential Dress Code. It can be found below.

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As a preceptor, your site may have different expectations of appropriate dress, and those should take priority over the NDSU SOP Dress Code. I encourage preceptors to give students a heads-up about dress code expectations when they respond to the student's 'Introduction' email. Clear communication with the student should help to avoid situations involving inappropriate dress.

However, if there is clear communication and the student still presents in inappropriate clothing, as the preceptor, you may choose to send the student home to change or contact the school for assistance.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have at any time!

Purpose

This dress code outlines the minimal acceptable standard for dress and appearance expected and required of all students within pharmacy practice laboratories, introductory pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE), advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE), and outreach activities. Experiential education sites and outreach activities may modify the dress codes to be consistent with the work and public contact specific to them. For all IPPE, APPE, and outreach activities, please contact your primary preceptor prior to arriving on-site for guidance on site-specific dress code expectations.

If for religious, cultural, or medical reasons there is a need to deviate from the dress code, the student must discuss accommodations with pharmacy practice laboratory faculty or experiential director. Written documentation may be required. When a student's dress does not comply with the established standard a pharmacy practice laboratory faculty, experiential education preceptor, or outreach activity coordinator will take appropriate action.

Name Tags and Lab Coats

Each student will receive a name tag and lab coat. Lab coats must be clean and pressed. These items must be worn during pharmacy practice laboratories, experiential education experiences, and outreach activities or when officially representing the College of Health and Human Sciences. These items are recognized as the principal basis of identification for faculty, preceptors, patients, and the public.

Appropriate Attire

All clothing should be clean, in good repair, pressed, and fit properly. The coordinator for a pharmacy skill laboratory course or a pharmacy practice experience preceptor may require relaxed attire specific to a course, learning activity, or practice environment.

Appropriate business casual attire includes

- Button-up dress shirt, short or long-sleeved, open-collar or optional tie, or polo shirt without logo. A logo affiliated with North Dakota State University is acceptable
- Blouse or knit shirt
- Sleeveless and cap-sleeved blouses must have shoulder straps a minimum of 3" wide
- Necklines should provide coverage and not expose the chest when bending forward
- Slacks or khakis mid-calf or longer
- Dress or skirt no shorter than 3 inches above the knee

Appropriate professional attire includes

- Button-up, collared dress shirt with tie
- Blouse or knit shirt
- Sleeveless and cap-sleeved blouses must have shoulder straps a minimum of 3" wide
- Necklines should provide coverage and not expose the chest when bending forward
- Dress pants mid-calf or longer
- Dress or dress skirt no shorter than 3 inches above the knee

Footwear

Shoes must be closed-toed, in good repair, clean, and professional in appearance.

Appearance

Visible tattoos are permitted. If a tattoo conveys violence, profanity, or sexually explicit content, it must be covered

- Jewelry may be worn, provided it does not interfere with the work being performed. Jewelry may not be worn when sterile compounding for infection control purposes

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Grooming and Hygiene

Hair should be clean and well-groomed

- If preparing compounded sterile or nonsterile preparations, hair longer than shoulder length must be secured
- Beards, mustaches, and sideburns should be clean and well-groomed
- Cosmetics should be worn in moderation
- Fingernails must be clean and neatly trimmed
- Nail polish is to be intact with no chipping. Artificial fingernails, tips, wraps, fillers, and nail polish are not allowed when sterile compounding for infection control purposes
- Body odor, from any cause, should not create distractions
- Perfumes, colognes, or heavy fragrances are not allowed

Inappropriate Attire

The following attire is not permitted in the pharmacy practice laboratories, experiential education, or outreach sites:

- T-shirts
- Clothing more appropriate for sports, lounge, or social wear
- Sheer or revealing clothing
- Off-the-shoulder tops, tank tops with shoulder straps less than 3 inches wide, halter tops
- Mini-skirts, dresses, or skirts with high slits
- Athletic pants, jogger pants, carpenter pants, or cargo pants
- Leggings may not be worn unless underneath a skirt or dress of appropriate length
- Denim jeans or any pants resembling jeans, regardless of the color of the fabric
- Head gear, including hats, baseball caps, stocking hats, sweatbands, and bandannas
- Sunglasses or dark glasses indoors, unless medically necessary
- Open-toed shoes, sandals, flip-flops, or Crocs

CENTER FOR COLLABORATION & ADVANCEMENT IN PHARMACY (CAP) CENTER UPDATES

By Dr. Lisa Nagel, CAP Center Director of Operations

The Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy (CAP) Center continues to thrive in 2025! With the dedication of student pharmacists and pharmacy professionals like you, we have launched several new initiatives this year. These projects span a wide range of impactful areas, including some new areas!

New Focus Areas for 2025:

- Integration of Pharmacy Technicians as Community Health Workers to enhance patient engagement and care coordination
- Lifestyle Medicine in Pharmacy Practice to support chronic disease prevention and management
- Healthy Aging Initiatives promoting wellness and independence for older adults
- Collaborative Practice Agreements to strengthen interprofessional care and optimize patient outcomes

Continued work and support in the following initiatives:

- Expanding community pharmacy immunization services
- Increasing access to vaccines for children
- Addressing prescription abandonment and improving medication adherence
- Tobacco cessation programs
- Point-of-care testing
- Geriatric care and healthy aging strategies
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Continued advancement of the ONE Program and opioid stewardship into Tribal Communities, Home Health and Correctional Facilities

We are grateful to collaborate with many pharmacy preceptors on these projects. CAP Center team members provide expertise from project inception to completion, guided by our Four Core Principles: Education & Training | Programs & Implementation | Coaching & Support | Data & Outcomes. If you are interested in participating in pilots or projects with the CAP Center, please contact us at NDSU.CAPCenter@ndsu.edu.

SELECT FREE CEIMPACT OFFERINGS

- Precept2Practice: Teaching Future Pharmacists to Diagnose and Prescribe (1hr podcast)
- Topic Discussions to Promote Learner Growth (1hr)
- Teaching and Modeling Professionalism in Experiential Education (1hr)
- Precept2Practice: Building Clinical Reasoning Skills in Student Pharmacists and Residents (30 min podcast)
- Enhancing Preceptor Effectiveness Through Empathy and Communication (35min)
- Find these and many more free topics!

Your Access Code: 25NDSU

From CORE ELMS
Click on External Resources > CEI

Login to CEI account
and Enter Access Code

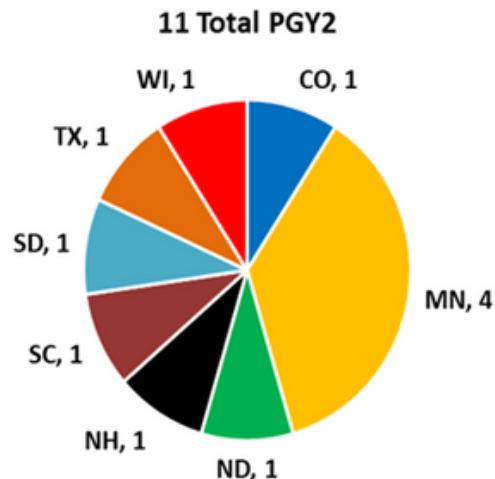
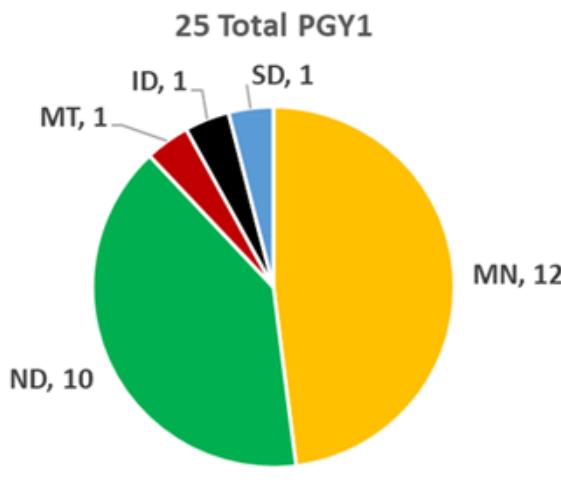
Preceptor Catalog

JOIN OUR LIVE JOURNAL CLUB
Second Wednesday Every Month
12noon (central)

Click on the Preceptor Catalog. Courses available to you will be listed as NO COST. Sort Courses by Categories.

RESIDENCY STATS OVERVIEW

Congratulations to the 25 NDSU graduates who are currently completing a PGY1 residency! **NDSU had a 96% PGY1 match rate**, compared to 81% nationally. We would like to extend a thank you to the many dedicated preceptors who helped prepare them, reviewed CVs, wrote letters of recommendation and encouraged them in their journey!



Additionally, we are excited to report a record high of 11 NDSU alumni are currently completing PGY2 programs. Thank you to all of our preceptors for your support in this process!

UPCOMING EVENTS

IPPE/APPE 2026–2027 rotation schedule available in CORE for preceptors
Late January/Early February 2026

NDSU Pharmacy Hooding Ceremony
May 15, 2026 10am Festival Concert Hall

NDSU Spring Commencement Ceremonies
May 16, 2026 FargoDome

First Day of APPE/IPPE 2026–2027 rotations
May 25, 2026

CHHS Career Fair/Scholarship Ceremony
September 10, 2026 (tentative) FargoDome



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