

PRN Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING SCHOOL OF PHARMACY EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



What's New

**MENTAL HEALTH
PRIMER FOR
PRECEPTORS**

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**UPDATED
EVALUATION
FORMS FOR IPPES
AND APPES**

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**UWSOP SOCIAL
MEDIA LINKS**

.....

Helping our students grow and flourish

By Antoinette Brown, RPh

Though it's supposed to be the lazy, hazy days of summer, for the Experiential Education Office (EEO), there's nothing lazy about summer. Our introductory and advanced pharmacy practice rotations have been going for a full month now, and our new rotation grading system is in full swing. For the EEO, the start of summer means the start of a new rotation year and the continuation of providing support for our students and preceptors. For many of our students, starting rotations is an exciting time, but also a time filled with new stressors (e.g. wanting to perform well, switching environments every 4 weeks, etc.). The rotation environment can bring new challenges, including mental health challenges. As students embark on a new academic year, we thought we would start off with a focus on student mental health.

As pharmacy preceptors, you have a lot on your plate. One thing you may not often think of is your students' mental health.

To support preceptors who may have a student or students experiencing mental health challenges, we are highlighting the American Pharmacists Association-Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Preceptor Special Interest Group's mental health primer for preceptors. This resource outlines potential signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, as well as how preceptors can create a supportive environment for students. It also covers ways to communicate with and support learners who may be experiencing mental health challenges. In addition, there are relevant resources and case scenarios to guide preceptors on implementing effective strategies into their learning environments. Click on [Mental Health Primer for Preceptors](#) to access this information.

As a reminder, the evaluation forms used for both our Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) have been updated for the upcoming academic year. Due to reformed accreditation standards in 2025 and a shift in pharmacy education to assessing student entrustment instead of traditional abilities for key pharmacist tasks, our evaluation form required revision to meet these needs. This allows preceptors to consider the amount of supervision that a student requires for a given activity, or the level entrustment the preceptor has for the student to complete the task.

We also switched our grading system from letter grades to pass/fail. This grading system lends itself well with the incorporation of Entrustable Professional Activities into the assessment process. Additionally, a pass/fail grading system is used by most pharmacy programs, so this change will align our grading system with that which is being used nationally. With this new grading system, the faculty of record for IPPEs/APPEs will consider preceptor evaluations as the primary basis for the successful completion of the rotation. However, grades will be assigned by the School of Pharmacy's faculty of record for all experiential courses.

Three videos about the new evaluation process have been created to assist in this transition. We encourage you to watch the videos, so you have a better understanding of the changes. The first video details how to use the evaluation and would be the priority to view. The second provides an overview as to how and why the evaluation was changed, and the third reviews the components of the new evaluation, the scales used for EPAs and the global assessment, and the scale used for the overall assessment of the student.

Video 1: How to Use the Evaluation: UWSOP New Eval Forms - Preceptor Overview.

**This video is approximately 10 minutes and will walk you through the new UWSOP rotation evaluation form. While this demonstration highlights our APPE form, the IPPE form (P2 students) will be very similar. If you only have time for one video--watch this one.

Video 2: The Who, What, Why?

**This video is approximately 6 minutes in length and provides an overview of the concept of entrustment and how it relates to rotation activities. It also describes the collaboration among 7 schools of pharmacy to create this shared evaluation tool. This video is hosted by one of our Northwest Pharmacy Experiential colleagues.

Video 3: The Details of the Revision.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer with time for some rest and relaxation. If there is anything we can do to assist you during this academic year, please let us know.

All the best,
The University of Wyoming Experiential Education Office

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