

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy Post-professional Residency Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Residency Mission Statement?

The mission of the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VAAAHS) Residency in Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy is to mentor the professional development and advanced clinical training of cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapists so they may exhibit the core values of physical therapy professionalism and may contribute to the field of cardiopulmonary physical therapy as practitioners, educators, and clinical scholars who demonstrate advanced clinical practice guided by current evidence.

What are the Residency Program Goals?

Program Goals

This residency is designed to prepare participants to become skilled cardiopulmonary physical therapy clinicians by providing them with education through both academic and clinical experiences. Participants will function as an integral member of an interdisciplinary team to assure integrated care for the patient, and will be given the opportunity to provide specialty level care for veteran patients.

The goals of the residency program are as follows:

Goal 1. Support the mission and values of the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and its Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation by creating an innovative mechanism to train physical therapists in the specialty area of cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy, thereby Expanding the quality and coordination of care delivered to Veterans with physical, cognitive, and social disability resulting from cardiovascular and pulmonary impairments.

Goal 2. Develop and deliver a curriculum for post-professional experiential learning program in cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy that integrates advanced Veteran-centered practice and interdisciplinary training with a theoretical knowledge base in cardiopulmonary clinical science.

Goal 3. Engage physical therapists in a deliberate and systematic use of reflection in delivering veteran-centered care.

Goal 4. Empower physical therapists to practice ethical clinical decision-making and demonstrate virtuous behavior.

Goal 5. Develop the clinical and didactic teaching skills of the resident and the residency faculty, fostering a practice environment where clinical knowledge is freely shared through dialogue and interdisciplinary education.

Goal 6. Advance a commitment to contributing to the design of a Veteran-centric healthcare model and infrastructure to help Veterans navigate the VA health care system and receive coordinated care.

Goal 7. Promote advancement in the field of cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy by engaging physical therapists in activities that promote excellence and seek to discover or appraise new evidence to guide practice decisions.

Goal 8. Graduate physical therapists that are prepared to pursue American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) certification as a cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical specialist.

What is the Residency Program's Credentialing Status?

The Residency Program is credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association/American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education. The Program's credentialed status became effective in July 2013.

Do I have to have my physical therapy license to qualify for the residency program?

Yes. A current physical therapy license (effective by July 1, 2015) from any of the United States of America or U.S. Territory is required.

How long is the Residency Program?

The Residency Program is 12 months, not to exceed 13 months in special circumstances.

How do I apply for the Residency Program?

To apply, go to <http://www.abptrfe.org/RFPTCAS/ApplicantWebsite/>

When does the Residency Program start?

It starts the Monday following July 4th each year.

Is there any tuition charged for the Residency Program?

While enrolled as a resident in the AAVA program, there is no fee for tuition.

Do the residents in the Program receive a salary and benefits?

Yes. Salaries are somewhat lower than those for new graduate PT's (\$45,913 in 2012-13, plus benefits). Residents carry a 75% case load in order to allow time for didactic coursework, research, presentations and projects. Residents are eligible for benefits through the VA. This includes employer supported health and dental insurance, life insurance, and accrual of paid time off. This is not an all-inclusive list, and applicants are directed to the human resources department at VA Ann Arbor for a full description of benefits.

Does the Residency Program prepare physical therapists to sit for the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties examination in cardiopulmonary physical therapy?

Yes. The program is designed to provide residents with a year-long intensive study of cardiopulmonary physical therapy, preparing them to sit for (and pass) the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist Examination offered by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Clinical time during the residency, which includes structured one-on-one mentoring, is provided for 75-80% of a typical week. The remainder of time is spent completing didactic training, research, projects and presentations related to the overall curriculum of the residency program.

Who are the faculty for the Residency Program?

Clinical Faculty:

Alexandra Sciaky, PT, DPT, CCS (Program Director)
Morgan Johanson, PT, MSPT, CCS
Marissa Demers, PT, DPT
Shiny John, PT
Rachele Burriesci, PT, DPT, GCS

Core Academic Faculty:

Alexandra Sciaky, PT, DPT, CCS
Morgan Johanson, PT, MSPT, CCS
Rachele Burriesci, PT, DPT, GCS

Consultants:

Claire Duvernoy, MD
Paul Christensen, MD
Jonathon Haft, MD
Robert Werner, MD
Mary East, MD

How do I request accommodations for my disability?

Students requesting disability accommodations must do so by filing a disability accommodation request in writing with the program coordinator at the time of application.

What does a typical week look like for a resident in the Program?

Sample Weekly Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 AM							
8:00 AM		Attend PT Dept. Inservice	Outpatient cardiac rehab group	Lecture/Lab	Outpatient cardiac rehab group	Case Seminar	
9:00 AM	Home study up to 4 hrs/day	Case discussion with mentor (20 min)	Home study up to 4 hours/day				
10:00 AM		Cardiothoracic surgery inpatient care					
11:00 AM		Outpatient pulmonary rehab group	Independent study/research	Outpatient pulmonary rehab group	Outpatient Program management tasks	Meet with Mentor(s) or Independent study/research	
NOON		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 PM-4:30 PM		Cardiac and pulmonary medical/surgical inpatient care with mentor for selected cases	Cardiac and pulmonary medical/surgical inpatient care with mentor for selected cases	Cardiac and pulmonary medical/surgical inpatient care with mentor for selected cases	Cardiac and pulmonary medical/surgical inpatient care with mentor for selected cases	Cardiac and pulmonary medical/surgical inpatient care with mentor for selected cases	

Contact Alexandra Sciaky, PT, DPT, CCS, Residency Director for more information at Alexandra.sciaky@va.gov or (734) 845-3816.

To apply, log on to <http://www.abptrfe.org/RFP/CAS/ApplicantWebsite/>