



# POA :

QUALITY MEDICATION USE

# 2026-2027

Student & Professional Programs

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# About PQA

PQA, the Pharmacy Quality Alliance, is dedicated to improving safe, effective and appropriate medication use and addressing issues that impact a person's ability to access and use medications.

Through quality measurement, research and education, PQA's consensus-driven initiatives help improve health care outcomes and lower costs.

PQA was established in 2006 as a public-private partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. PQA was created because prescription drug programs were a major area of health care where there was no organization or national program focused on quality improvement. Today, PQA is an independent, non-profit organization with 175 diverse members across health care.

PQA member organizations include pharmacies, health plans, health care providers, pharmacy benefit managers, biopharmaceutical companies, technology vendors, government agencies, associations, health information technology organizations, researchers, accrediting organizations and academia. PQA's work is patient-centered and includes participation from individuals with relevant lived experience, caregivers and advocates.

**Our mission is optimizing health by advancing the quality of medication use.**

We approach our mission with **honesty** and **standards**, cultivate relationships through **inclusiveness** and **collaboration**, and define success by **ingenuity** and **impact**.

PQA is committed to producing the next generation of leaders in health care quality. PQA provides health care quality experience to students and graduates from a wide variety of disciplines. All students and early-career professionals gain valuable experience in health care quality, measure development and stewardship, research and education in a non-profit association setting.

**MEET OUR MEMBERS!**



# Letter from the CEO

Greetings!

On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for your interest in the PQA Student and Professional Programs!

As an emerging leader in health care, public health, and pharmacy, now is the right time for you to pursue unique and non-traditional opportunities to expand your knowledge, diversify your experience, and increase your understanding about quality medication use and its impact on patients, providers, and the health care system.

We believe strongly in the importance and value of developing and growing the next generation of health care leaders. At PQA, we are pleased to offer you a variety of different opportunities to actively contribute to the success of the alliance as an integral member of our team, while also having the opportunity to work directly with industry leaders through our broad and diverse membership.

Pursuing non-traditional opportunities, such as the PQA Student and Professional Programs, can significantly influence your career. As someone who took advantage of non-traditional opportunities during my time as a student, I can say with confidence that exploring all available opportunities benefited me professionally. Likewise, I am confident that your experience will broaden your perspective and shape your own journey.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in pursuing one of the many opportunities to work with our amazing team and members through the PQA Student and Professional Programs. From the whole PQA team, we look forward to speaking with you in greater detail about our work and critical role in ensuring quality medication use.

Sincerely,



**Micah Cost, PharmD, MS, CAE**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# Letter from the Director of Education

Hey there!

Welcome to PQA. It is an honor to be the Director of Education and get the opportunity to work with students and post graduates from across the country. In my position, I have the distinct responsibility of aligning the company's mission of improving quality medication use with educating the next generation of health care professionals interested in quality.

At PQA, we understand that the health care landscape is evolving and changing. Because of that, we also understand that health care students are too. Our education programs are designed to support your professional growth, deepen your understanding of quality improvement and provide a meaningful experience in your overall education.

Regardless of the educational program that you are completing, quality improvement is a team sport. That's why we encourage all students, of any background, interested in improving medication use and health care quality to apply to one of our many program opportunities. We will strive to ensure your time with us sets you up for success in the future, and your contributions will help shape the future of health care for the better.

Thank you for considering PQA as part of your educational journey. We are excited to learn from you just as much as we hope you will learn from us. If you're ready to challenge yourself, grow as a leader and be part of an organization committed to meaningful change—then welcome. You belong here!

Cheers,



**Tammy Malm, PharmD, MPH, BCPS**  
**Director of Education**



# Postdoctoral Fellowship

The PQA Postdoctoral Fellowship produces the next generation of leaders in health care quality through a full-time, 12-month program based in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. PQA fellows collaborate across the organization and with a wide variety of stakeholders at a national level to impact the quality of care patients receive with an emphasis on the quality of medication use.

The program's foundation begins with the fellows' interests to develop skills in:

Medication use quality education

Quality measure development and use

Non-profit administration and association management

Health care quality research

Project management



“The PQA Executive Fellowship was the best way to start my pharmacy career. Connecting with PQA's diverse membership across the health care industry showed me how varying perspectives on quality were all brought together by PQA's work as an educator and convener of pharmacy quality. In addition, being involved in PQA's oncology initiative gave me insights on PQA's strategy to innovate as a quality measurement developer and leading researcher in the field - and I got to experience all of this with a fantastic group of people who are all focused on PQA's mission.”

-Melanie Lam, PharmD, RPh, PQA Executive Fellow 2024-2025

# Postdoctoral Fellowship

There are many opportunities available for fellows at PQA. The postdoctoral fellowship has key components as well as the option for additional projects based on the fellow's interests and PQA's mission-driven needs.

All fellows are expected to complete key components of the program, which include:

- Work independently and in collaboration with all members of the PQA team to ensure the success of the organization and achievement of its mission and strategic plan
- Serve as a mentor for PQA's student programs, including Advanced Practice Pharmacy Experience (APPE) students and summer interns
- Lead recruitment for PQA's student programs
- Engage in professional development opportunities, such as conference attendance
- Shadow PQA member organizations from health care's diverse sectors
- Immerse in the PQA Annual Meeting, Leadership Summit and other major PQA meetings and events
- Earn a professional certification, such as Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) or Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Connect with a network of national pharmacy and related association fellows and residents



# Postdoctoral Fellowship

The fellowship program offers two tracks:

## **1. Executive Fellowship in Health Care Association Leadership**

The Fellow in Health Care Association Leadership works primarily with the PQA Engagement, Education and Convening (EEC) team. The EEC team is responsible for design and implementation of two national meetings, managing PQA's student and professional development programs, developing educational content and engaging with existing and potential members. The fellow will have additional opportunities to contribute to:

- Creation and stewardship of accredited continuous education
- Development of webinars
- Craft resource or action guides
- Facilitation of a large national meeting
- Co-lead committees of stakeholders

## **2. Fellowship in Health Care Quality**

The Fellow in Health Care Quality will work primarily with the PQA Performance Measurement and Research (PMR) team. The PMR team is responsible for developing and stewarding quality measures related to medication use, conducting research in the areas of quality improvement and staying abreast of changes to health care policy. The fellow will have additional opportunities to contribute to:

- Quality measure development and maintenance activities
- Research projects related to medication use quality
- Literature reviews of clinical information
- Support of PQA measure inquiries

[Learn more about PQA's Fellowship Program.](#)

# Postdoctoral Fellowship Alumni



**Laurin Dixon, PharmD**  
2013-2014 Executive Fellow  
Vice President, Chief of Staff to the COO  
at Centene Corporation



**Chris Kotschevar, PharmD**  
2020-2021 Executive Fellow  
Director of Stakeholder Engagement  
at Pharmacy Quality Alliance



**Maria Scarlatos Eid, PharmD**  
2014-2015 Executive Fellow  
Global Professional Relations &  
Independent Medical Education Vaccines  
at Merck



**Alexis Caronis, PharmD**  
2021-2022 Executive Fellow  
Associate Director, Drug Safety  
at Leaderboard Branding



**Hannah Fish, PharmD**  
2015-2016 Executive Fellow  
Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at  
National Community Pharmacists Association



**Jasmine Strayhorn, PharmD**  
2022-2023 Executive Fellow  
Senior Clinical Pharmacist at  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
of North Carolina



**Mel Nelson, PharmD**  
2016-2017 Executive Fellow  
Senior Director of Program & Information  
Management at Pharmacy Quality Alliance



**Razanne Oueini, PharmD, MSc**  
2022-2023 Executive Fellow  
Senior Manager of Performance  
Measurement at Pharmacy Quality  
Alliance



**Nicolette Mehas, PharmD**  
2017-2018 Executive Fellow  
Provider Strategy, Policy, and Operations  
Expert, Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton



**Oliver Valdez, PharmD, MSPH**  
2023-2024 Executive Fellow  
Senior Manager of Performance  
Measurement at Pharmacy Quality  
Alliance



**Hannah Lee-Brown, PharmD**  
2018-2019 Executive Fellow  
Associate Director of Market Access  
at Novo Nordisk



**Melanie Lam, PharmD, RPh**  
2024-2025 Executive Fellow  
Clinical Pharmacist at Humana



**Carter Chapman, PharmD**  
2019-2020 Executive Fellow  
Clinical Pharmacist  
at Prime Therapeutics

## 2025-2026 PQA Executive Fellows



**Melody Evans, PharmD**  
Melody received her Doctor of Pharmacy  
from Florida A&M University College of  
Pharmacy and her Bachelor of Science in  
Biochemistry from Alcorn State University.



**Lauren Moy, PharmD**  
Lauren received her Doctor of Pharmacy from  
the University of Illinois Chicago Retzky  
College of Pharmacy and her Bachelor of  
Science in Nutrition and Health from the  
University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign.

# How to Apply

## 1. Assess eligibility

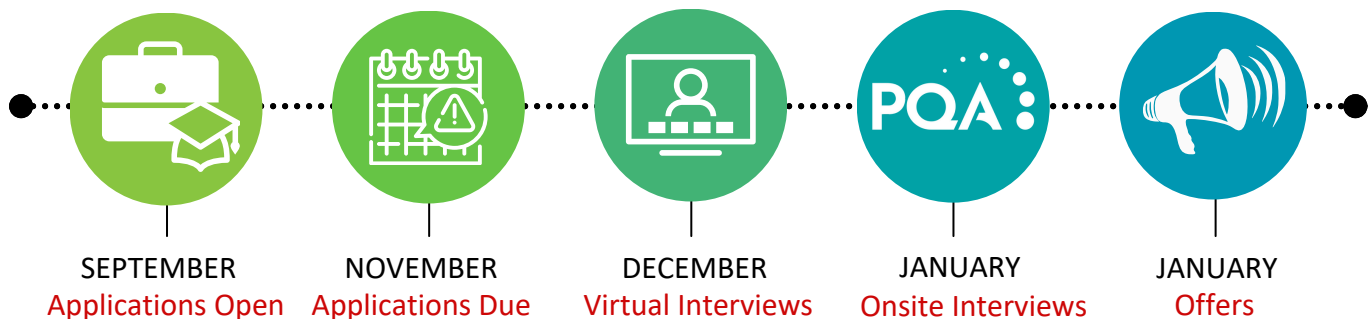
- Must hold a doctoral candidate (PharmD, PhD, MD) from an accredited program within the United States (or within 6 months)
- Commitment to improving the quality of medication use
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work independently and in a collaborative environment
- Strong writing and public speaking skills
- Ability to effectively manage multiple projects simultaneously
- Complete professional licensing requirements within 90 days

## 2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Official transcript from an academic institution
- Writing sample
- Two letters of recommendation

## Timeline



# MPH Practicum Program

PQA offers supervised applied practice experience opportunities to Master of Public Health (MPH) students seeking to fulfill their school's MPH graduation requirements. Working from a national platform in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, or remotely, practicum students are immersed in the health care quality landscape with a focus on appropriate medication use, health equity, and patient experience.

The program aims to foster the development of skills in one or more of the following areas to support PQA's mission to advance the quality of medication use:

Quality Measurement

Health Services Research and Policy Evaluation

Communications

Stakeholder Engagement

Each practicum offering is tailored to meet the goals and objectives of the student's graduate program while aligning with PQA's current initiatives and will also include the following:

- Earning PQA's Medication Use Quality Certificate
- Engaging in professional development activities
- Delivering a final presentation to the PQA team

The PQA Summer MPH Practicum Program is a paid applied practice experience opportunity. Transportation, housing, and all other living costs are the responsibility of the graduate participant.



# MPH Practicum Program

Students will have the opportunity to contribute to ongoing activities that support PQA's mission, such as:

- Conducting literature reviews
- Facilitating informational interviews
- Interpreting results of data analysis
- Developing dissemination and communication strategies and products
- Addressing health disparities through integration of pharmacy and public health perspectives

“During the MPH practicum, I had the opportunity to develop two products that contribute to initiatives that align with PQA's mission to advance the quality of medication use. The first product offered strategic suggestions to enhance PQA's Medication Access Patient Journey framework and the second product focused on dissemination planning for PQA's oral anticancer medication initiative. Together, these products reflect a blend of policy insight, public health theory, and strategic communication—contributing to my professional growth in health services research.”

**-Aarya Satardekar**, MPH Candidate, 2025 MPH Student



“As a dual degree student completing my PharmD and MPH, I wanted an MPH practicum that intersected both my degrees and focused on medication use safety at a population-based level. I created various dissemination packets related to PQA’s frameworks and the SDOH Resource Guide. It was a fantastic experience to see a new side of pharmacy incorporating public health initiatives that impact the quality of care and optimize patient-centered outcomes.”

**-Katie Quigley**, MPH Candidate, 2024 MPH Student



[Learn more about PQA's MPH Practicum.](#)

# How to Apply

## 1. Assess eligibility

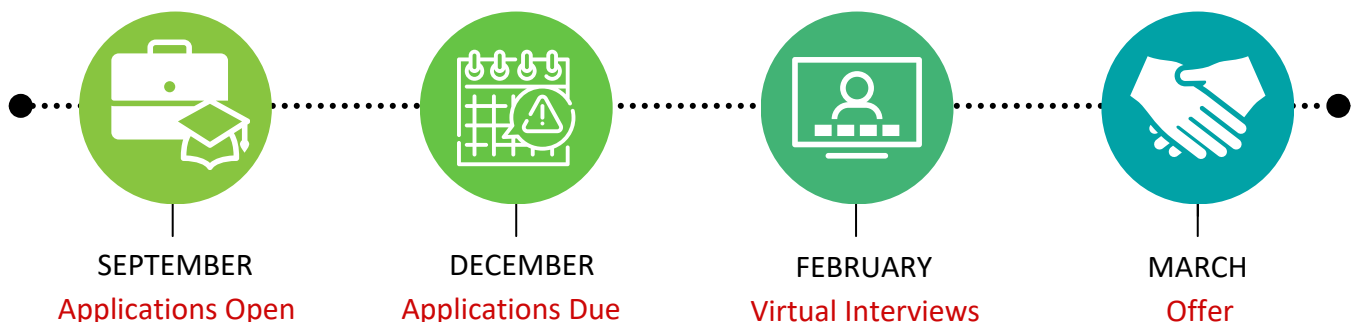
- Students actively enrolled in a CEPH-accredited MPH program during the practicum period
- Students seeking a practicum placement for credit to fulfill their school's practicum requirement

## 2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:

- One-page cover letter describing
  - Interest in the practicum
  - Career goals and how the PQA MPH Practicum Program will facilitate achieving those goals
  - Potential start date and length of time desired
  - Anticipated weekly commitment
- Curriculum vitae

## Timeline



# Summer Executive Internship

The PQA Summer Executive Internship is a competitive, paid summer executive internship that provides experience in non-profit association management with an emphasis on health care quality and a focus on:

Education

Member Communications

Medication Use Quality Strategic Initiatives

Stakeholder Engagement

Executive interns participate in an 8- to 12-week summer program that takes place in person at PQA headquarters located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area or remotely. Hybrid approaches to the interns' location are also possible. PQA's strategic location provides an opportunity for interns to engage in current health care events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the health care quality field. Transportation, housing, and all other living costs are the responsibility of the student.

“Through this internship, I gained an understanding of PQA's role in shaping pharmacy practice through its actions as a convener and in developing measures that support medication quality use. I contributed to a project chronicling the efforts of programs around the country to address social determinants of health and connected with staff and fellows across the diverse mix of national pharmacy associations. This experience helped me to refine my career goals and opened my eyes to career options that I did not know about before.”

**-Amos Fung**, PharmD Candidate; 2025 Summer Intern



[Learn more about PQA's Summer Executive Internship.](#)

# How to Apply

## 1. Assess eligibility

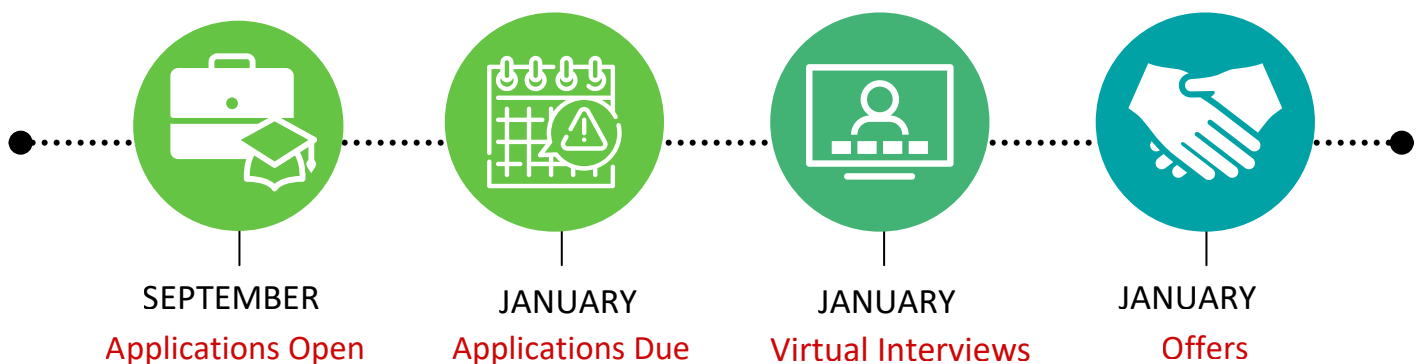
- Students actively enrolled in a health care-related undergraduate or graduate program or have a relevant degree or study concentration, such as health policy or communications

## 2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform for the Summer Executive Internship accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter and curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcript from an academic institution
- One letter of recommendation

## Timeline



# Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rotation

PQA offers a competitive experiential rotation that provides opportunities in several focus areas, including:

Research & Performance Measurement

Medication Use Quality Education

Non-profit and Association Management

Member Communications

Selected students may complete a rotation at PQA headquarters located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, or remotely. PQA's strategic location provides an opportunity for students to engage in current health care events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the health care quality field. The rotation is available as a final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. Transportation, housing, and all other costs of living are the responsibility of the student.



“I selected the PQA APPE rotation to gain a deeper understanding of how meaningful quality measures are developed and used to improve patient care on a population level. PQA plays a critical role in creating evidence-based metrics that inform CMS, health plans, and other stakeholders to promote safer, more effective, and equitable health care. I was drawn to the opportunity to explore the full lifecycle of a measure, from concept development to real-world implementation, and to contribute to work that directly impacts patient outcomes on a national scale.”

**-Lena Lebada, PharmD Candidate, 2025 APPE Student**

[Learn more about PQA's APPE Rotation.](#)

# How to Apply

## 1. Assess eligibility

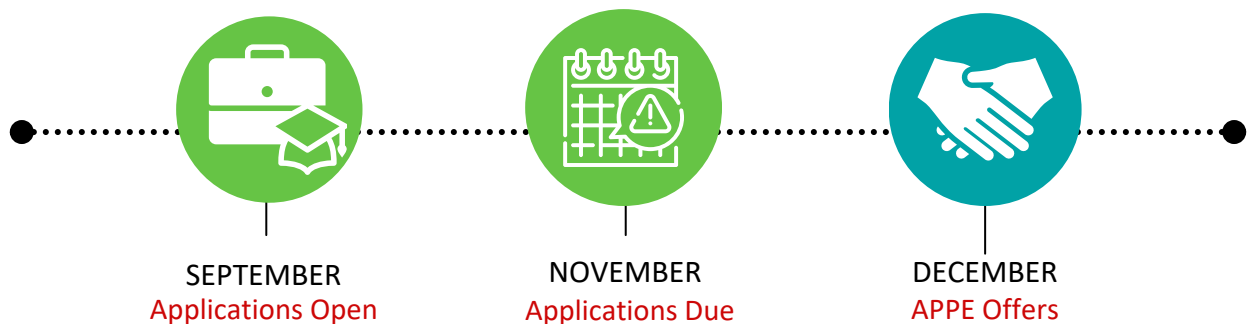
- Final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences

## 2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform for the APPE accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter and curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcript from an academic institution
- One letter of recommendation
- Letter of approval from school or college's experiential program staff expressing permission to complete PQA's elective rotation

## Timeline





# Contact Us

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[Fellowship@PQAalliance.org](mailto:Fellowship@PQAalliance.org)

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[www.pqaalliance.org](http://www.pqaalliance.org)

