

Office of Experiential Learning

Preceptor Press

October 2025

Food for Thought

While student evaluations offer valuable insights, please do not underestimate the power of your own self-assessment. After each rotation wraps up, consider asking yourself:

- ☀ What went well during this rotation?
- 🔧 What could be improved next time?
- 🌱 What new habits, activities, or processes might enhance future rotations?

Taking just a few moments to reflect can lead to meaningful growth—for you, your rotation, and most importantly, your students' learning experience.

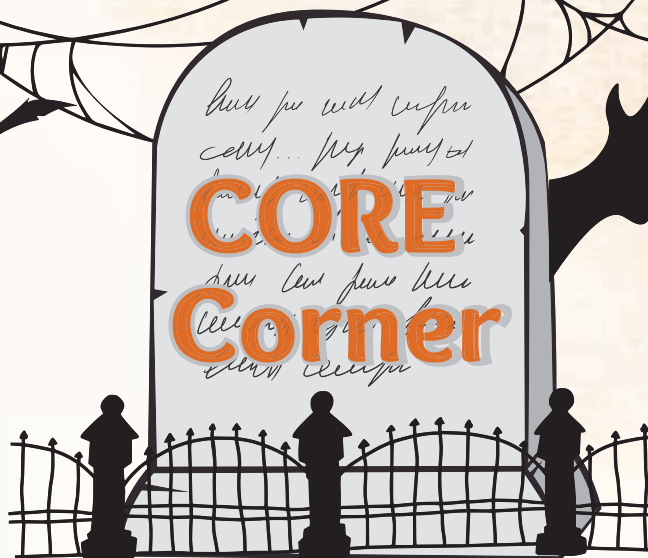
We want to hear from you!
Click the links below to...



[Request a site visit](#)

[Share an Innovative precepting and/or practice model](#)





Have you ever been stuck on a task and not sure where to go next when navigating CORE ELMS?

Don't worry – help is just a click away!

If you look at the bottom right-hand corner of your screen in CORE, you will find a question mark icon. This is a new built-in support feature that gives you access to frequently asked questions, step-by-step tutorials, and guidance while navigating the system. Whether you're submitting evaluations or verifying documentation, support is always within reach!



Can't find exactly what you're looking for? You can easily submit a support ticket directly through this help window, and CORE will follow up with assistance.

If you're still stuck or have a question, we're also here to help!

**Breaking
News!**

*Check out our new social media page (@UMKC_OEL)
where we share all things experiential learning!*



F.A.C.T.



UMKC School of Pharmacy FACT Program: A Unique Opportunity for Preceptor Engagement

The UMKC School of Pharmacy is excited to introduce you to the Focused Academic Career Track (FACT) Program, an innovative opportunity designed to enrich pharmacy students' education while connecting them with practicing professionals across the state.

Led by faculty at all three UMKC sites, the FACT Program allows students to focus their studies on a specialized area of pharmacy or skill development to gain concentrated training and recognition in their chosen field. Students apply in the spring of their P2 year and receive targeted skills training to launch the successful completion of a capstone project presented in their P4 year, often showcased at state, regional, or national conferences. Through carefully selected electives, co-curriculars, and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations, students develop advanced knowledge and practical expertise that elevate their learning, experience, and success.

The program offers three distinct tracks to align with students' career goals:

- Business & Administration
- Public Health & Epidemiology
- Research (Clinical, Benchtop, Social)

Preceptors play a vital role in this initiative by serving as outside mentors on student projects. Their real-world insight and professional expertise help guide students in exploring specialized areas of pharmacy while strengthening their ability to contribute to the health of the communities we serve.

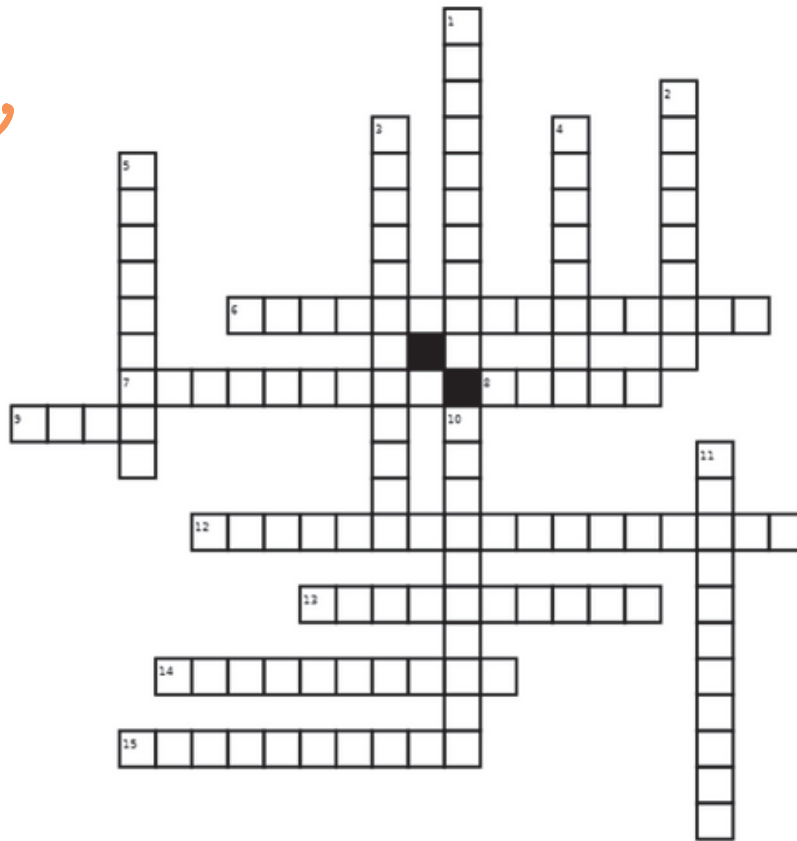
Ultimately, the FACT Program equips students with diverse skills and experiences, positioning them to be more marketable upon graduation and better prepared to advance patient care and pharmacy practice.

For more information about how you can engage with the FACT program, contact Dr. Heather Lyons-Burney at lyonsburneyh@umkc.edu.



In Honor of National Pharmacy Month....

We thank you!



Down:

1. mold we somehow made useful
2. crystal + crystal =liquid?
3. fizzy family
4. a drug warning, also found on an airplane
5. it's yellow and full of vitamins, but not a fruit you eat
10. liquid + powder = paste
11. reduction in particle size with mortar and pestle

Across:

6. fraction of delivered drug reaching systemic use
7. trust me it is not found on a brewery menu
8. an automated dispensing cabinet that nurses and pharmacists hate but love
9. an abbreviation for drugs that can be easily confused with one another
12. equal ratio doubling method used in compounding
13. name for drugs that are designated for rare diseases/populations
14. what is the most common food/drink do we avoid due to drug interactions with a common lipid lowering medication
15. grid method for % dilutions



Congratulations!

Preceptor of the Year Winners 2024-25



APPE Preceptor of the Year

"I remember how important my APPE rotations were in determining the path my career took. I try to keep that in mind when working with my students, and I try to give them the best possible experience every day."

*Daniel PHalen, PharmD, MBA
Optum Rx*

Newly Appointed Preceptor of the Year

I'm incredibly honored to receive the Preceptor of the Year award. Teaching and mentoring have always been close to my heart, and this recognition truly means the world to me. Working with students and residents keeps me inspired, challenged, and constantly learning. Their curiosity and drive push me to be better every day, and I'm so proud to be part of their journey.

*Reema Gandhi, PharmD, CSP
Optum Rx (Specialty)*



From Left to right: Stephanie Schauner, Maureen Knell, Ali Anderson, Reema Ghandi, Daniel Phalen, Heather Lyons-Burney

Faculty Preceptor of the Year

"I love precepting because I've found that when I focus on uncovering each student's potential—often before they see it themselves—amazing things happen. In trying to create a safe space with positive, open, and supportive communication and learning, students more fully discover their gifts and talents, see the fruits of their contributions, and grow in their confidence. Along the way and providentially, I find this brings out the best in me as a preceptor, a life-long learner and as a person."

*Maureen Knell, PharmD, BCACP,
Saint Luke's Internal Medicine Clinic*

IPPE Preceptor of the Year

One of my favorite things about the profession of pharmacy is the pay-it-forward culture that embraces and encourages students and that also inspires pharmacists to be life-long learners.

*Ali Anderson, PharmD, BCPS
St. Mary's Hospital*



SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS GAME



August 2025

"This event has been a tradition dating back to the year we opened. The event is a great opportunity to reconnect with alums and hear about their personal and professional achievements, and to welcome new students to our site! This year we had a tremendous turnout and beautiful fall weather in the middle of August to boot!" -Paul Gubbins



MU Tailgate September 2025



"We had a great weekend celebrating 20 years of UMKC SOP at Mizzou!" We welcomed more than 60 alumni, current students, and friends and family of the School to an anniversary celebration and tailgate ahead of Mizzou taking on South Carolina. It was great to see everyone, celebrate all we've accomplished, and continue the tradition of cheering on our Tigers. MIZ-ZOU!"
-Erica Ottis





Mark your Calendar

Veteran's Day

- November 11, 2025 (University Closed)

Fall Break

- November 22 - 30, 2025

Finals Week

- December 15 - 19, 2025
- Fill out student evaluations by Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

Winter Break 2025

- December 20 - January 19, 2024

Winter 2025 IPPE Block 5:

- December 23 - January 10, 2025



Upcoming Conferences

• **APhA Annual Meeting**

- Los Angeles, CA, March 27-30, 2026
- Registration Information [here](#).

• **AACP Upcoming Events.**

- Click [here](#) for more information.

• **MPA Upcoming Events**

- Click [here](#) for more information.
- Legislative Day, April 1, 2026

• **MSHP/KCHP 2026 Spring Meeting**

- March 27-28, 2026
- Click [here](#) for details.

• **ASHP Mid-year Meeting:**

- December 7-10, 2025
- Las Vegas, NV
- Click [here](#) to register.

School Events

Achievers of Excellence Scholarship

Awards Celebration

Friday, October 24, 2025, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., UMKC
Student Union on the Volker Campus
For more information, [Click here](#).

UMKC Career Fair and Residency Showcase

November 14, 2025 - UMKC Health Sciences Building,
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

To register, click [here](#) or contact Shelly Janasz,
janasz@umkc.edu, 816-235-1613.





Tell Me Something Good

by Amannda DeBoef



On a routine Health System IPPE rotation at Centerpoint HCA, while working with pharmacist April Beebe, Lexi Riggs encountered a situation not uncommon for this type of rotation. The way in which she handled the situation led Beebe to brag to Riggs' assigned preceptor, Mikaela Morphy, who in turn reached out to Angela Brownfield, Director of the Office of Experiential Learning at UMKC School of Pharmacy. Thus, we have some good news to share.....

While completing a routine medical reconciliation, Lexi Riggs proceeded to go over her patient's list of current medications. One of which was Eliquis, a costly script, without the financial aid of insurance. This patient, unfortunately, was both homeless and uninsured.

The pharmacy in which the prescription was sent denied filling it due to the lack of insurance. The pharmacy indicated the medicine would be \$500 for a 30-day supply, which the patient could not afford. Riggs happened to be sitting by the nurse case manager, who explained that the patient was signed up for Missouri Medicaid, but the coverage was pending.

Upon delving deeper into the patient's chart, Riggs realized this gentleman was seen in the Emergency Room for deep vein thrombosis (or pulmonary embolism) mere days prior to his current admittance. He was discharged with a prescription for Eliquis. Before he could get his hands on the life-saving medication, he incurred a second episode and was re-admitted to the same hospital.

Riggs, due to her part-time work at a specialty pharmacy, recalled a free trial coupon for this costly medication. "We use these coupons with pending or no insurance patients," said Riggs. Riggs believed the one-time free trial coupon could buy the patient some time until his Medicaid insurance kicked in. She explained how to sign up for a 30-day supply at no charge, and went one step further. The original pharmacy location was not close to the patient, so she transferred the prescription to a pharmacy closer to Centerpoint, where the patient was stationed.

The nurse case manager and pharmacist assumed the free trial for this medication required commercial insurance. Riggs educated them, based on her work at a specialty pharmacy, that this assumption was untrue. "I felt rewarded to provide insight from the outpatient world and assist in figuring out a difficult situation for this patient," shared Riggs. While Riggs's experiences have come from a different type of pharmacy setting, she felt both surprised and rewarded to have an impact with inpatient care, due to her ability to supply resources that pharmacists and other medical professionals sometimes lack.

"I believe this incident stood out because I took immediate action. I didn't stop to question myself but took the initiative to help on a topic in which I felt certain," shared Riggs. "My biggest priority is the patients' health and getting to hear their story one on one. As a future pharmacist, my goal is to assist with medications regardless of a patient's financial situation."

“I would share with my fellow pharmacy students to be confident in what you know; you always know more than you think you do. Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and always have open dialogue with your preceptor. Even if it is a rotation in which you are unfamiliar, you can still make a positive impact on patient care.” shared Riggs. She spoke of the need for constant communication between a student and preceptor when dealing with patient care and the ability for both the preceptor, student, patient and pharmacist to learn from each other, despite the level of education and experience each individual possesses.

Listen up, Preceptors! Lexi Riggs felt comfortable going above and beyond because she experienced a healthy and open relationship with her preceptor. She emphasized the idea sharing and open communication, which propelled her to take this step that very likely saved a patient’s life. Riggs explained that many students feel inadequate based on their limited knowledge. They are fearful of asking a dumb question. However, that is what Summer IPPEs, the General Medicine IPPE, and APPE experiences are for! To teach students how to handle the intricacies of diverse populations of both patients and pharmacies. This particular event highlights the fact that out-of-classroom experiences are truly making a difference in, not only the education of our students, but the patients in which they are privileged to reach.

As a child, Riggs’ mother had specific medication needs. She went through a trying season which led to a loss of insurance. Riggs saw firsthand the struggles her mother encountered, in attempts to secure the necessary medication, with no insurance. This made an impact on the future pharmacist from a young age. At 16, Riggs’ dad suggested she research a career in pharmacy.

“I enjoy learning about medications; helping those with medications they are on and creating relationships with patients with no judgment.” shared Riggs. Riggs noted that the owner of the pharmacy in which she works part-time while studying at UMKC School of Pharmacy, goes out of her way to ensure patients get the medications they need, even if financial responsibility is a hardship. Riggs feels inspired by her boss selling scripts at the price for which she purchases them, oftentimes making little to no money for the business.

Lexi Riggs went above and beyond. She shared her experience in an effort to encourage her fellow students to do the same. What her kindness and empathy toward an uninsured patient showed, not only to the patient, but to her preceptor and fellow students, was that there is always an ability to help patients. Regardless of education, experience and pharmaceutical knowledge, going one step further could just save a life.



Lexi Riggs,
UMKC School of Pharmacy
Class of 2027



MEET THE TEAM



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UMKC
School of Pharmacy

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JOIN OUR TEAM OF PRECEPTORS



Experiential Program Overview

Community Summer IPPE: Three weeks after P1 year in a community pharmacy.

Health System Summer IPPE: Three weeks summer after P2 year in a health system pharmacy.

APPE: P4 year, students engage in required and elective experiences in a variety of pharmacy settings.

Preceptor Benefits:

- Continued experiential training/development
- Adjunct faculty appointment with UMKC opportunities for promotion
- UMKC Library access
- Networking opportunities



Experiential Website

@UMKC_OEL



Join our Preceptor Team

Institution Code: ROOnation





Heather Lyons-Burney

Heather Lyons-Burney joined the faculty at the UMKC School of Pharmacy site in Springfield in 2014 and currently serves as a Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Director of Experiential Learning. Over the years, she has coordinated and taught various topics in the classroom including compounding, self-care pharmacotherapy, and leadership, management, and innovation required and elective courses. In addition, she provides experiential learning at a community pharmacy practice site with a focus on alleviating health disparities in rural and underserved populations.

Following residency, Heather began her career as a pharmacist with Cox Health Systems in Springfield, Missouri, serving in the neonatal and perinatal care units. This was followed by ownership of one community pharmacy in Branson, which expanded to three community pharmacies including providing non-sterile compounding and point-of-care lab services. In 2010, Heather and a group of community leaders established a charitable primary care clinic focused on interdisciplinary care in order to provide affordable health care for the medically underserved. As part of her ongoing Board service, she worked to establish the state's first designated Charitable Pharmacy, opening My Neighbor's Charitable Pharmacy in February 2023 providing access for uninsured individuals to medications, immunizations, lab testing and screening, and pharmacist care. Currently, she serves on several community Boards including the Taney County Health Department Board.

Heather's areas of service have included substance use disorder prevention, serving on two county coalitions, as a team member and presenter for Missouri's ECHO program, and through numerous educational speaking opportunities focused on opioid use disorder. Additionally, she has been a part of several grants targeting optimal opioid prescribing and opioid use disorder prevention strategies. Recently, she has been involved in efforts to increase colorectal cancer screening in rural and underserved communities, specifically utilizing community pharmacies as access points.

Her dedication to community service has been recognized by the UMKC School of Pharmacy Alumni Achievement Award in 2017, the Branson Chamber Mary Award in 2021, the Pharmacy Bowl of Hygeia Award in 2023, and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks in 2023.

However, her proudest achievements have been her nearly 30-year marriage to her husband and business partner, Brian, and their three children, Alex (23), Maya (22), and Will (20) with whom she is deeply appreciative of their support and encouragement, along with the many friendships she has made over the years through the profession of pharmacy.



Michelle DeGracia

Michelle DeGracia serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Experiential Learning at University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) School of Pharmacy. After completing her residency and fellowship in academia, Michelle grew a passion for experiential education that strengthened her commitment to being involved with creating meaningful opportunities that empower pharmacy students to grow beyond the classroom. She coordinates the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) program, facilitating student placements across clinical sites and supporting experiential learning. In the UMKC didactic curriculum, she teaches pharmacy calculations, sterile and non-sterile compounding, and pharmacy law. Beyond her role in academia, Michelle enjoys trying new restaurants and coffee shops with her husband, Jacob. Together, they also share a love for travel and live music. She values spending quality time with family in both Houston and Chicago. In addition to her love of travel, she finds joy in cooking and baking – and she's probably the biggest Swiftie you will ever meet!



Answers to National Pharmacy Month Word Puzzle

