E*VALUE™

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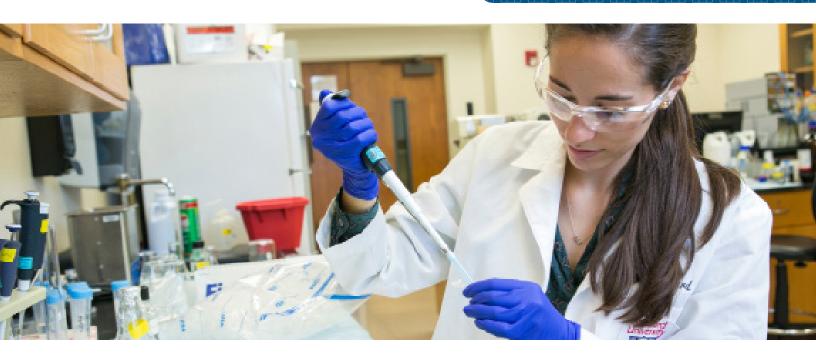
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SUCCESS STORY
PHARMACY

## McWhorter Masters Scheduling Experiential Pharmacy Education with E*Value.

**Samford University**
McWhorter School of Pharmacy

The McWhorter School of Pharmacy's website proudly proclaims its mission: to nurture and prepare students to be exemplary pharmacists and improve health worldwide through innovative pharmacy practice, scholarship and service. Providing a first-class experiential development program is just one of the many ways it delivers on this commitment.

### Scheduling win-win

The program's two primary practice areas—Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs)—provide students firsthand opportunities to learn about medication distribution and public health in community, ambulatory care, and institutional pharmacy settings. During their fourth year APPEs, students are given the opportunity to tailor 1,600 hours of clinical experience to their personal practice goals. They submit preferences for eight rotations, choosing among pharmacy sites in Birmingham, north Alabama, the gulf coast region, the Southeast and international locations.

### AT A GLANCE

**Established:** 1927 in Birmingham, AL

**Accreditation:** ACPE

**Avg Class Size:** 128

**Faculty:** 26 in Pharmacy Practice; 14 in Pharmaceutical, Social and Administrative Sciences

**Alumni:** 4600

Scheduling these practice experiences used to be a complex, time-consuming process before the school began using E*Value in 2009, according to Betty McCullough, Senior Manager, Experiential Education. "We've cut our scheduling time by at least half," she says. "It's hard to imagine now how we did all that tedious manual entry on an 11x17 spreadsheet for approximately 128 P4 students for a total of approximately 1,024 APPEs each year. With the addition of five IPPE courses in the first three years, the scheduling process only became more complex for a total of approximately 650 IPPE placements."

"I don't want to even think about having to manually schedule all IPPE and APPE placements. Now, once the students submit preferences, and with a little work on the front end by the Experiential Education faculty and staff, E*Value takes the guessing out of scheduling and gives our students a better schedule through the optimization process," McCullough says.

Giving students more control over what they want their Doctor of Pharmacy experientials schedules to look like through APPE preferencing is as big a win for students as it is for the McWhorter School of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education. "Students gave our scheduling process high marks on the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) survey, because we empower them to support their career goals," McCullough explains.

### E*Value expertise

McCullough is known as McWhorter's "go to" E*Value expert for questions or issues. As system trainer for students and faculty, she notes, "E*Value is easy to learn, and the students seem happy with it."

She's also an E*Value power user, having created a "low score documentation" program that uses the system's customizable evaluations feature to track low scores and corresponding actions taken. The program generates a notice when a student ranks a preceptor or a practice site "2" or below and when a preceptor rates a student "2" or below.

"Director Patricia Naro, Pharm.D., FASCP and Assistant Director Dee Thomason, Pharm.D., BCPS document the action taken—specific preceptor development or student

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>
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> Senior Manager, Experiential Education

remediation," McCullough says, "and the system is either our insurance that the action delivers a satisfactory result or lets us know that the situation requires further action." She also created in E*Value the tracking of site visits, student Interprofessional Encounters (IPEs) while on experientials, student information collection, collection of preceptor availability, and a schedule acceptance feature for both preceptors and students.

### On-time grades and evaluations submissions

In addition to automating scheduling, E*Value has taken grading and evaluation from manual to digital. Instead of faxing grades and evaluations, outside preceptors enter everything into the system. "If grades or evaluations aren't entered by certain dates," McCullough explains, "we can rely on E*Value to send reminder emails at various increments of time until the requirement is completed. By taking a layer of manual entry out of our processes, E*Value has also improved our accuracy."

### Keeps on giving

"We knew from the demo that E*Value was a powerful system that could keep up with our growth," says McCullough. "And we continue to be impressed with the system as well as the support team. We actually feel like they've become friends."

McWhorter intends to leverage E*Value as a quality control tool by creating an Educator Scorecard. "The Office of Experiential Education will have the ability to measure the performance level of each educator and provide feedback", explains McCullough. "This will give us insight as to how well preceptors are meeting their commitments. This feedback is yet another way we can continue to offer a top-notch experiential education program. E*Value just keeps on giving."