

Dear SIUE School of Pharmacy Student:

Welcome to SIUE School of Pharmacy! We are looking forward to meeting all the members of the “Class of 2026” and being part of your preparation for a pharmacy career. A key element of your academic preparation will be experiential education. “Rotations” are structured learning experiences conducted under the guidance of a faculty coordinator and practicing pharmacists (preceptors) in a variety of different pharmacy settings. When visiting practice sites students will build on their didactic education and apply classroom learning to “real-life” situations.

In preparation for your experientials beginning in the fall of 2022, there are a number of important procedures that practice sites require students to comply with. These items are either legal in nature, practice site requirements, or requirements of health care accrediting organizations such as The Joint Commission (TJC). The requirements include but are not limited to: drug testing, background checks, immunizations for common communicable diseases, tuberculosis (TB) testing, physical exams, and licensure as an Illinois Pharmacy Technician. These requirements will be submitted to an online vendor: [Castle Branch](#). Refer to the attached documents for further information.

It is possible that you have received prior information from PharmCAS that is related to background checks and drug testing. Please disregard this information. SIUE School of Pharmacy has specific requirements for your participation in the Experiential Education portion of the curriculum and, because of these requirements, the background check and drug test must be completed according to the instructions provided by our Office. **Please follow the instructions attached to complete your immunization and health requirements through Castle Branch as soon as possible.** The background check and drug testing cannot be completed prior to starting class in August. We will give you more information about the drug testing and background checks at that time.

Additionally, students should note that the pharmacies utilized for experiential education are located throughout Illinois along with some sites in the St. Louis metropolitan area. **Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the experiential sites.** Please keep in mind that these sites will not be conveniently accessible by walking, bicycle or public transportation from the SIUE campus. For planning purposes, the first year fall semester experiential rotation will be October 17 through October 28. You should not plan any other activities during this timeframe. Students will spend a minimum of 40 hours per week at their assigned experiential site for a total of 80 experiential hours.

Should you have any questions concerning the pre-experiential requirements that are described in the following pages, please contact the Experiential Education Office at 618-650-5126 or mkempla@siue.edu.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Dr. Kate Newman
Director of Experiential Education

Dr. Monica Kempland
Experiential Education Coordinator

Dr. Jennifer Arnoldi
Assistant Director of Experiential Education

Donna Boyer
Office Support Specialist