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# The Script

For MCW Pharmacy School Preceptors

March 2025



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## **Preceptor Spotlight: Nic Smith**

Pharmacist & Owner  
Smith Pharmacy

### **What do you want other preceptors to know about you?**

My name is Nic Smith. I graduated from UW-Madison School of Pharmacy in 2004. I became a preceptor in 2008 when I took on the role as the Pharmacy Manager at Wal-Mart Oshkosh, and I have been a preceptor ever since. I have always wanted to really make a meaningful impact on how retail pharmacies operate, and in 2013 I opened Smith Pharmacy, an entirely family-owned independent pharmacy in Little Chute, Wisconsin. I take great pride in thinking "outside the box" and finding unique solutions for problems. Students will be exposed to the business and ownership side of pharmacy, in addition to many other services that we offer (retail, long-term care, non-sterile compounding, med synch programs, etc.). I am a big believer in being involved in the community where you live. Discussions and presentations play a large role in my career. Whether it is talking to a large group of physicians about compounding concepts and ideas, or to parishioners at a church about Medicare Part D plans, or to a cancer support group about CBD, this all makes up what it means to be involved and be a resource for your community. Outside of pharmacy, I enjoy coaching softball and powerlifting, and spending time traveling with my family.

### **Why did you become a preceptor?**

I became a preceptor because I love teaching and working with students. Education is a two-way street, and I often learn things from my students as well. I enjoy pharmacology and really stress to students that understanding how a drug works is critical in decision-making and will

enhance long-term confidence when put on the spot. We set aside time with students to have a classroom-style discussion about situations they encounter weekly. We also spend time reviewing OTC options, as I feel most students are not particularly confident in OTC options at this stage of their career. Our staff has expanded and specialized, giving students more flexibility and opportunities to work with different pharmacists and specialties under one roof.

### **What are the benefits of precepting?**

Precepting is very rewarding, and I love building lifelong friendships. It is common for me to get messages from previous students asking for advice with situations, and I feel very proud when I see many of my former students working to further the pharmacy profession. I try to tailor rotations to each student's interest, and I feel it is critical to push individuals past their knowledge comfort zones. Past students have helped our pharmacy in numerous ways from figuring out a tablet press machine, to helping update our standard operating procedures, to creating new collaborative practice agreements, to helping organize vaccination clinics, to working with myself in doing presentations, and much more.

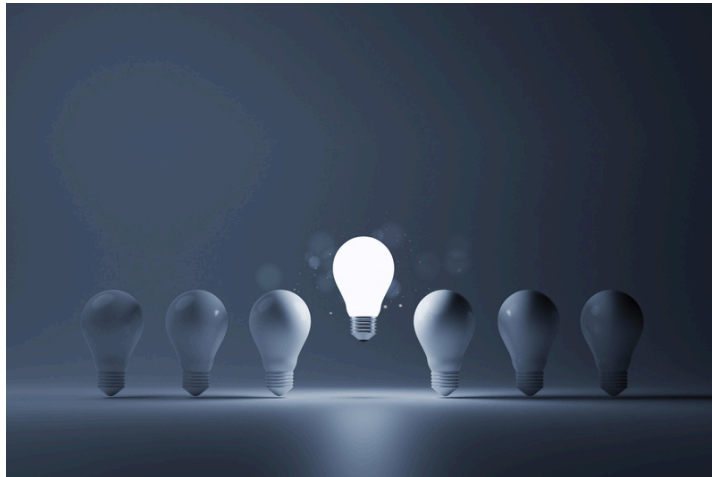
### **What advice and tips do you have for new preceptors?**

I precept APPE students in their Community Care rotations.

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## Introducing the Preceptor Insights Series

Presented by MCW School of Pharmacy Experiential Education



The Office of Experiential Education is excited to launch the MCW Experiential Education Preceptor Insights Series! This series offers brief, 3- to 6-minute videos on a variety of topics. Whether you are a first-time preceptor or seasoned mentor, the videos provide valuable insights to help you grow and refine your skills.

Access the series playlist through the newsletter or from the Training/Benefits tab in CORE ELMS. We are starting with three topics, 3 Tips for First Time Preceptors, Integrating Students into Your Pharmacy Practice, and Setting Expectations. More videos will be added in the coming weeks. Choose topics that interest you and enhance your precepting experience!

### [Preceptor Insights Series Playlist](#)



#### [3 Tips for First-Time Preceptors](#)

(4 minutes 37 seconds)



#### [Integrating Students into Your Pharmacy Practice](#)

(6 minutes)



#### [Setting Expectations](#)

(4 minutes 55 seconds)



## Adapting Precepting Strategies for Generation Z Pharmacy Learners

As Generation Z (born 1997–2012) enters pharmacy school and the workforce, it is important for preceptors to adjust their teaching strategies to effectively engage this new cohort of learners. Gen Z has grown up immersed in technology. They value visual and hands-on learning and are often self-directed in their learning approach.

To promote success, consider the following precepting strategies:

### 1. Incorporate Technology:

Leverage digital resources like instructional videos, quizzes, and virtual simulations to align with Gen Z's preference for visual and interactive learning. Watching videos to demonstrate skills, then pausing for in-person practice, allows for immediate application and feedback.

### 2. Encourage Self-Directed Learning:

Gen Z thrives in environments where they can control their pace and explore topics independently. Preceptors can foster this by offering opportunities for independent research, self-assessment, and personalized goals, helping them become life-long learners and promote autonomy.

### 3. Emphasize Hands-On Learning:

Gen Z learners prefer kinesthetic and visual learning experiences. Actively participating in the pharmacist's role versus shadowing offers the opportunity to apply concepts in real-world settings. Collaborative, interprofessional environments help bridge generational gaps and develop skills mitigating misunderstandings.

### 4. Engage as a Mentor:

Gen Z values close, communicative mentorship. Preceptors should model professional behavior, guide decision-making, and provide immediate, constructive feedback to support the development of these learners as practitioners.

By embracing these strategies, preceptors can better prepare Gen Z for success in pharmacy, ensuring their transition into the workforce is both smooth and effective.

For more information and references see the original article:

Precepting Gen Z Learners | AAPP. Aapp.org. Published 2025. Accessed February 3, 2025. <https://next.aapp.org/perspective/2025/01/618834>

## ASHP Educator Essentials Podcast



The Educator Essentials Podcast is brought to you by the ASHP Section of Pharmacy Educators and focuses on tips, tricks and strategies to aid faculty, preceptors and those involved in the education of the pharmacy workforce. The content will include items such as time management strategies, dealing with difficult learners, preceptor and professional development, and educator challenges and opportunities.

Click for more details: [Educator Essentials](#)



The MCW School of Pharmacy invites students, staff, residents, fellows, pharmacists, preceptors and associated healthcare providers to showcase their research or scholarship within the MCW community at the Research & Scholarship Forum on Wednesday, May 7.

The event will also include an End of Year Celebration, where we will express gratitude for all contributors to our PharmD program.

### **Event Details:**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Medical College of Wisconsin  
8701 W Watertown Plank Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

4 - 4:30 p.m.

Arrival & Registration

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Platform Presentations and  
End of Year Celebration

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Poster Showcase

[\*\*Register to Attend\*\*](#)

# Stay connected with us!



PHARMACY SCHOOL

## Office of Experiential Education

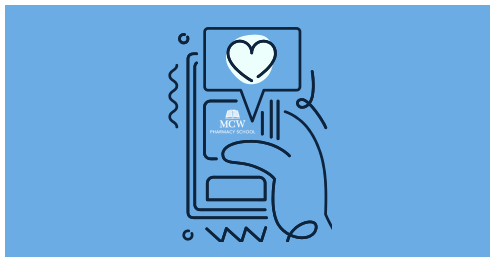
Email: [pharmacyee@mcw.edu](mailto:pharmacyee@mcw.edu)

## Read Past Newsletter Editions

[The Script - December 2024](#)

[The Script - September 2024](#)

[The Script - June 2024](#)



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Live Local Programming	+
Webinar-Based Resources	+
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Podcasts	+

## Preceptor Resources

Visit the MCW Preceptor Resources page for links to webinars, podcasts, conferences, online resources and more!

<https://www.mcw.edu/education/pharmacy-school/faculty-staff-and-preceptors/preceptors/preceptor-resources>