The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) requires that schools of pharmacy “must ensure that preceptors receive orientation, ongoing training, and development.” Each school of pharmacy is expected to have a program to inform preceptors of the expected outcomes for students in pharmacy practice settings and the best methods to use to achieve those outcomes.

To assist our preceptors in becoming familiar with those student outcomes and methods to achieve them, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy has identified several preceptor development programs that are readily available to most pharmacists. We strongly encourage all of our preceptors to complete one of these and to forward a copy of the C.E. certificate of completion to us for our records.

The American Pharmacists Association (A.Ph.A.) and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation developed the Community Pharmacist Preceptor Education Program in 2007. It is a home-study program, approximately 24 pages in length, and contains many helpful examples as well as worksheets for the preceptor to use with students. It is available at no cost on the A.Ph.A. website. You can obtain 3 contact hours (0.3 CEU) of ACPE continuing education credit by completion of an online assessment and evaluation. The current program is approved through May 2013.

You can access this program through http://elearning.pharmacist.com/products/1319/the-pharmacist-preceptor-education-program

The online version of the Pharmacist’s Letter provides access to a number of resources for preceptors, including home study courses on precepting the IPPE student and on precepting the APPE student in the community, hospital, and core rotations. The amount of credit awarded for each course varies from 1 to 3 contact hours (0.1 to 0.3 CEU). In addition there is access to live webinar/conference call programs on precepting. You do not have to be a subscriber to the Pharmacist’s Letter to access these programs. These resources can be accessed on the Department of Pharmacy Practice website under Faculty/Preceptor at www.health.umt.edu/schools/practice/faculty/preceptordevelopment.html

Additionally, the Pharmacist’s Letter Preceptor Toolbox contains many useful resources on topics such as professionalism, activity ideas, syllabus examples, evaluation tools, sample assignments, student’s schedules, orientation resources, patient safety resources and many other teaching materials. While there is no C.E. credit associated with these materials, many can easily be adapted and used with students in your practice setting.

Please make use of one of these opportunities to obtain Preceptor Development C.E. If you are aware of other programs that would be suitable, please contact Gayle Hudgins, Director, Experiential Education, at gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu or 406-243-6495.