UIC Retzky College of Pharmacy

Rural Pharmacy Education Concentration (RPHARM) Packet

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Herbert M. and Carol H. Retzky College of Pharmacy

CHICAGO • ROCKFORD

ILLINOIS RPHARM

UIC Retzky College of Pharmacy. One College. Two Campuses.

Established in 1859, the UIC Retzky College of Pharmacy stands as the oldest academic unit of the University of Illinois, one of the largest and most comprehensive research universities in the nation. Our College enjoys a national reputation for excellence and has been ranked among the top colleges of pharmacy for scholarship, curriculum, and the quality of faculty and students.

In 2010, the College of Pharmacy added an additional campus in Rockford, IL where students can benefit from small class sizes and personalized attention. The Retzky College of Pharmacy is viewed as a single institution with one accreditation but two campuses: Chicago and Rockford. Students in Rockford complete the identical curriculum as students on the Chicago campus. The core classes are taught via distance education using state-of-the-art technology.

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UIC RETZKY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
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ILLINOIS RPHARM

Rural Pharmacy Education Concentration (RPHARM)

Overview

Demand for pharmacists is often high in rural communities where access to medical services may be limited. The concentration in rural pharmacy services, also known as the Rural Pharmacy Education Program (RPHARM), is an option within the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program. The goal of the RPHARM concentration is to educate students about the unique challenges and opportunities present in rural communities and to prepare them to practice pharmacy in a patient-centered and interprofessional manner.

Select students are admitted to the RPHARM concentration. These students typically come from rural backgrounds or are interested in practicing pharmacy in a rural community. Students enrolled in this concentration learn alongside students from the College of Medicine's Rural Medicine (RMED) program and the College of Nursing's Rural Nursing (RNURSING) program.

RPHARM Program

Curriculum Summary

1st year

- Topics
  - Population-Based Approach to Rural Health Care
  - Agricultural Hazards, Toxicology, & Farm Safety
  - Development of Health Resources in Rural Communities
  - Rural Mental Health Issues
  - Community-Based Rural Health Research
- Trips
  - No Harm on the Farm
  - Central Exposure (Central Illinois)
- Projects
  - Shadowing Rural Pharmacist
  - Shadowing Rural Physician

2nd year

- Topics
  - Rural Clinical Cases and Discussion
  - Rural Elderly Issues
  - Rural Ethical Situations
  - Essentials for a Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Project
  - Clinical Case Simulation
- Trips
  - Northern Exposure (Northern Illinois)
- Projects
  - 4-H Health Jam
  - Shadowing 3rd Healthcare Professional

3rd year

- Topics
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process
  - Practice Locations and Career Options
  - Clinical Case Simulation
- Projects
  - Rural Community Assessment
  - Development of Community-Orientation Primary Care (COPC) Project
  - IRB COPC project submission

4th year

- Hands-on learning in selected community for 18 weeks
- Implementation of COPC Project
- Poster presentation at Rockford Research Day

RPHARM Program
Benefits and Application Summary

Benefits

★ Work and learn with medical and nursing students for 4 years
- Same classes
- Same assignments
- Become accustomed to working with other health care professionals

★ Provides a network of peers and future colleagues that have similar life experiences
- All students in the program understand the advantages and disadvantages of growing up and living in a small community

★ Rural coursework makes up 6 of the 13 required elective credit hours

★ Complete three of your 4th year rotations in the same rural community
- Rotation sites are available throughout the state

★ By the time you graduate, you will have:
- Created a research project
- Experienced the IRB process
- Completed a research project, including data collection
- Presented your research project at Research Day

★ Graduate with a PharmD and a concentration in rural pharmacy services (the graduate school version of a minor)

Application Process

1. Contact the Director of the Rural Pharmacy Education Program
    a. Heidi Olson, PharmD at holson6@uic.edu

2. Interview with RPHARM faculty/staff

3. Receive RPHARM concentration acceptance letter

4. Sign RPHARM pledge

RPHARM
Testimonials

“The tradition and education provided at UIC is unmatched by rival pharmacy schools within the state. The RPHARM program, offered exclusively on the Rockford campus, prepared me for my future in rural healthcare.

The relationships I have built on the UIC Rockford campus with fellow students and faculty have had a significant impact on me as a person, professional, and pharmacist.”

~Dr. Kevin Askew, PharmD, Class of 2015
Clinical Pharmacist, Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services,
Gibson City, IL

“I was interested in practicing pharmacy in an underserved area, so the RPHARM Program was a great fit for me. As part of this Program, I have learned about the barriers rural residents may face when accessing healthcare services.

~Dr. Suany Jass, PharmD, Class of 2022

"The RPHARM program offers you the opportunity to get involved in rural communities across Illinois and to create interprofessional relationships with other professional students. It also helps you improve your leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Which are essential for a future pharmacist."

~Melivette Feliciano Rivera, Student Pharmacist, Class of 2023

“RPHARM has taught me that the healthcare needs in rural communities often come with unique challenges and situations you won’t find in urban or suburban areas. It’s important for rural healthcare providers to be well-versed and knowledgeable about their patient population.

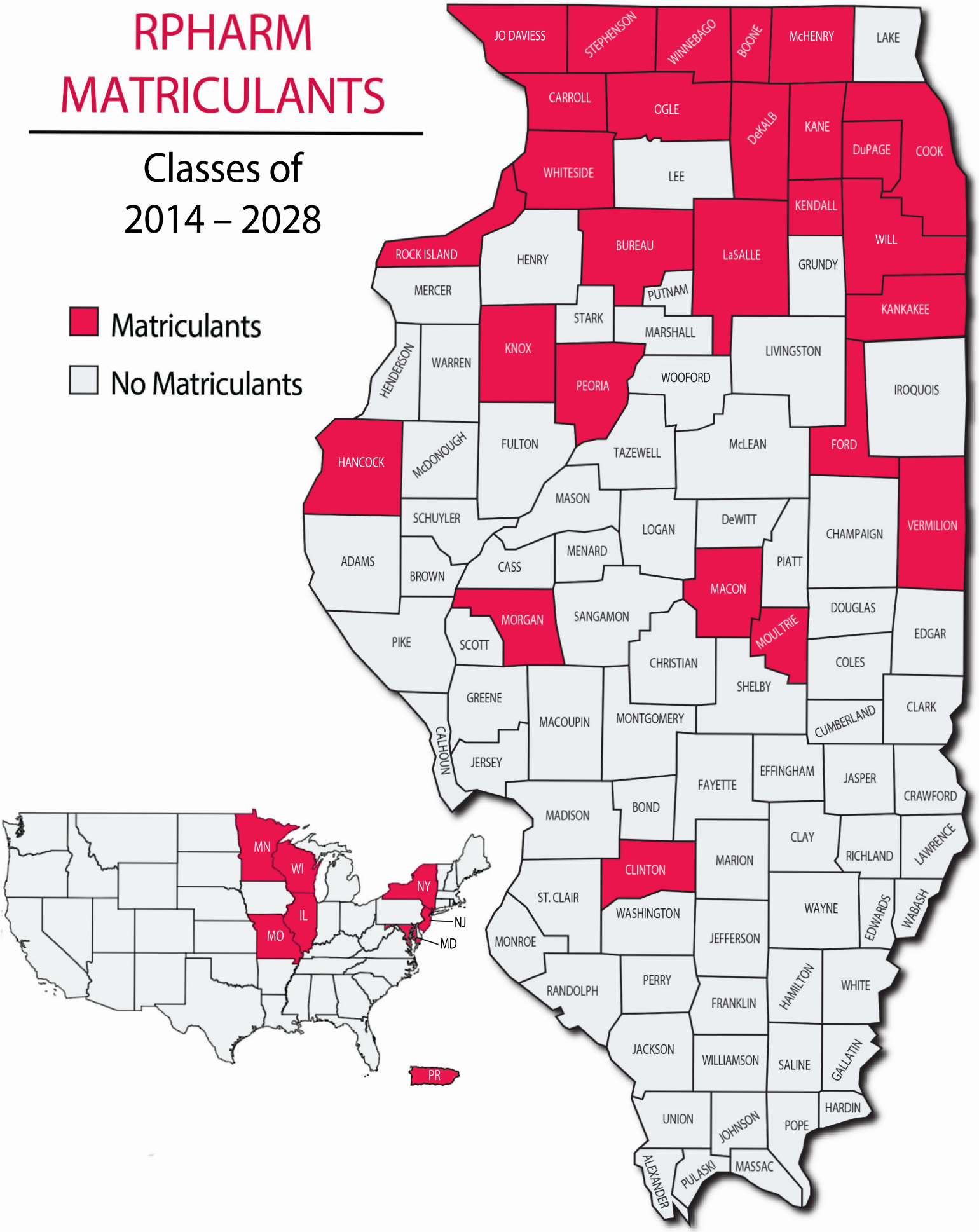
~Cat Hayes, Student Pharmacist, Class of 2023

RPHARM MATRICULANTS

Classes of 2014 – 2028

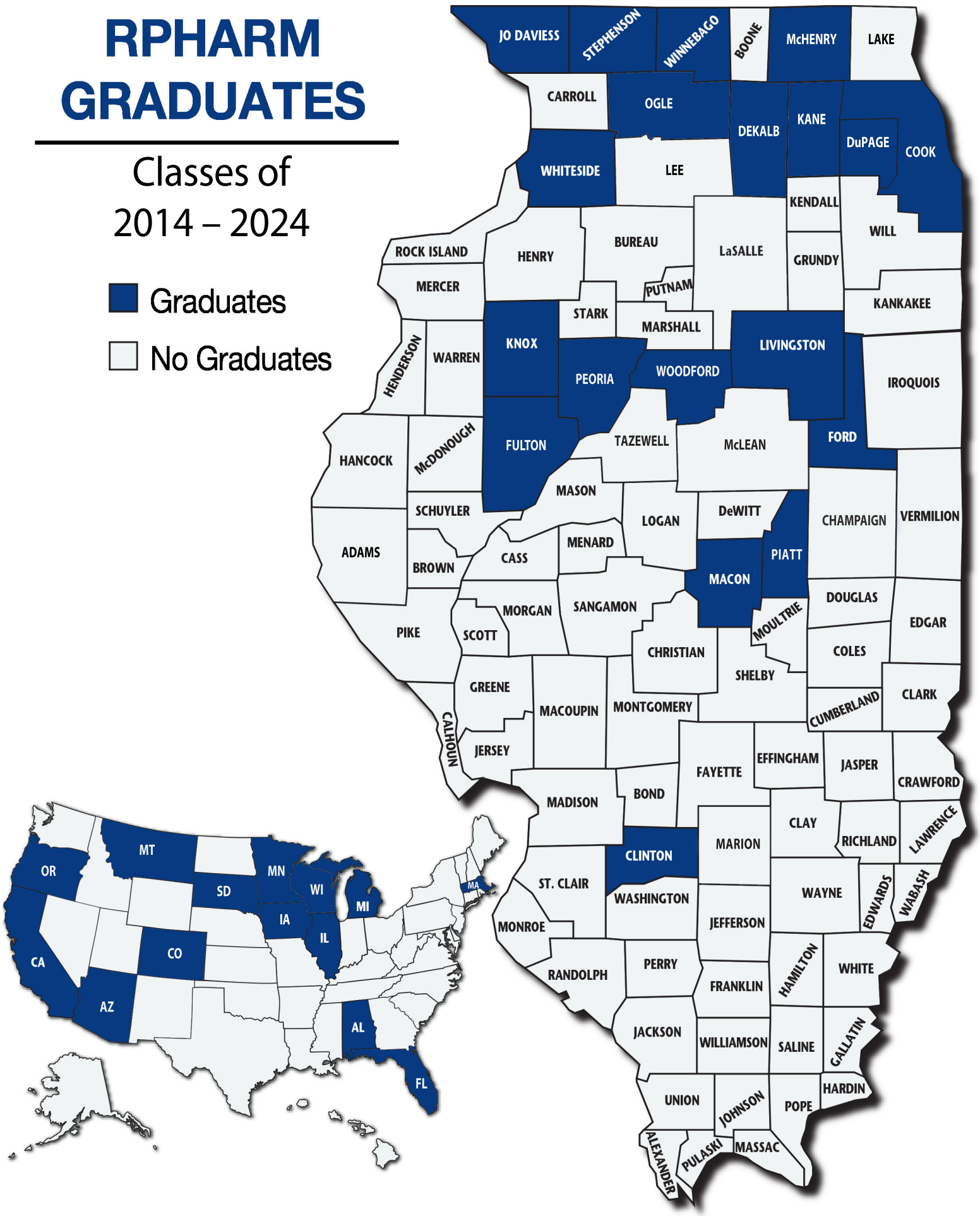
Matriculants

No Matriculants



RPHARM GRADUATES

Classes of 2014 – 2024

Graduates

No Graduates