

Clinic PEAK Introduction

This program is a breakthrough innovation in clinical education. Placing senior students in the best practices will allow experienced doctors to mentor and train the soon to be graduated students in a "real Life" setting.

Clinic P.E.A.K.* Program Description (*Practice Excellence Art and Knowledge)

The PEAK program is a program designed to allow senior interns to complete their clinic requirements (student will be required to perform adjustments) under the direction of an off campus Doctor. The Doctor has qualified to become a Life University Extension Faculty member and will serve as a mentor to help the intern not only develop clinically but also be better prepared to make the transition from school to practice.

The PEAK Program is for student interns in quarters 13 and 14, in good academic standing and having passed the 11th quarter OSCE exam. Doctors of Chiropractic will be credentialed through an application process to become a PEAK Doctor. The final step for credentialing the doctor will be the approval of the Georgia State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, if in Georgia. Each doctor will be subject to the laws and rules of their state regarding preceptorships.

The student Intern will work with the PEAK Doctor in providing patient care and fulfilling other assignments given by the PEAK Doctor. They will follow the curriculum, guidelines, the Honor Code, and Eight Core Life Proficiencies of Life University; with the additional caveat that the PEAK doctor's office and patients, are the doctor's and thus the student must also adhere to the PEAK Doctors office policies. From this experience the intern will gain valuable insights into the nuances of running a profitable practice and the rewards of providing quality chiropractic care. The PEAK Doctor will act as a mentor to the intern helping to bridge the gap between the classroom, the college clinic and private practice. The PEAK Doctor will have a formative impact on the development of the intern's clinical and professional identity. The intern will commit to a two quarter internship with the PEAK Doctor to provide continuity for the PEAK Doctor's practice and the opportunity for the intern to be able to follow a wider range and variety of cases.

It is anticipated that the relationships between the PEAK Doctor and intern will be meaningful for both parties allowing guidance in developing skills in clinical practice, practice management, community services and the balance of professional and private lives. It is anticipated that the PEAK Doctor will not only be a facilitator in the student intern's development, but also become a life long mentor.

Once the intern is in the PEAK office they will be a participating team member of the clinic, being a valuable part of the practice team. Interns will perform history, examinations, diagnosis, x-ray, provide chiropractic adjustments and complete a Learning Objective Worksheet each week to fulfill course requirements under the direct supervision of the PEAK Doctor. In addition they will be present in the office NO less than 154 hours or about 15 hours each week and will be available to perform assigned duties that support the office in order to gain a broad experience on all that is required to run a practice. The extent of involvement will be determined by the PEAK Doctor with the understanding that the Intern is there to be an active participant of the practice team.

The PEAK program is principally in the Atlanta metro area, however out of state sites are available for students where the host state law permits according to the governing rules that apply. Georgia state law states that students may perform "...chiropractic procedures at a location other than the premises of the chiropractic college ... provided such student has successfully completed a minimum of three academic years of Chiropractic College..." The CCE Standards refer to the clinic not owned and operated by the chiropractic college as "Supplemental Clinical Training Programs".

Chiropractors in the PEAK Program

Basic Qualifications to become a PEAK doctor:

- Complete the online application and Attest to statements regarding Application Agreement, HIPAA, FERPA, OSHA, Stark, and OIG and Title IX Statements
- Licensed in the state at least 5 years (some states require 3 years)
- Malpractice Insurance (\$1M/\$3M limits or higher)
- No board sanctions or fines, not on OIG Exclusions list
- No current malpractice claims or past judgements
- Pass a criminal background check
- 50 office visits per week average minimum
- Current CPR or Basic Life Support with a hands-on training component. (online-only certificates not accepted)
- Complete PEAK application
- Commitment to mentor senior interns to be better prepared for practice
- Submit a HIPAA sanitized patient record and a self audit form.

Students in the PEAK Program

Intern Requirements and Responsibilities

- Interns understand that participation in the program is a privilege and not a right.
- It is the intern's responsibility to complete, sign and submit the Learning Agreement by Week 8 of the preceding quarter they wish to participate in the PEAK Program.
- The intern agrees to participate in the PEAK Program for the entire quarter (10 weeks)
- The intern is responsible for reporting to their assigned clinic on time for all scheduled shifts and act and dress professionally while in the program.
- Then intern will follow all policies and procedures of the Extension Faculty office, and meet weekly with the PEAK Doctor.
- The intern is expected to demonstrate an acceptable level of clinical performance during the internship.
- During this program the intern will be earning graduation requirements. To maintain records for these requirements the intern will use the: Learning Objective Worksheets, Intern Service Log, Case Management Form, and X-Ray Report Form, to record all services performed. It is the intern's responsibility to complete and turn in the, Case Management Forms, and X-Ray Report Forms. The Student Intern will also need to help the PEAK Doctor remember to submit weekly totals of chiropractic credits and the Learning Objective Worksheet.
- It is the intern's responsibility to compete with their assigned doctor the Mid-Quarter Intern/Doctor Meeting form and turn in to the PEAK Program office by Week 6.
- By Wednesday of Week 11 of the quarter it is the intern's responsibility to turn in to the PEAK Program office the Self Assessment; PEAK Program Experience Evaluation; any Journal pages, Learning Objective Worksheets, Intern Service Logs, Case Management Forms, and/or X-Ray Report Forms.
- The intern will perform only those procedures deemed ethical and legal for unlicensed individuals as outlined under Charter 100-8 of the "Laws and Rules of the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners" which can be found on the Board's website at www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/chiro, or as appropriate for the state in which the PEAK intern is practicing.
- The intern will present to the Director of Clinical Advisement by the end of the 11th Week of 14th Quarter for Red Lining and clinic clearance for graduation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the goal of PEAK?

A. Our goal is to better educate student interns and enhance their ability to transition from the University environment to practice. In addition to provide opportunities for the experienced Doctor who would like to participate in education but are involved in private practice. This means the program is intended to be streamlined to reduce administrative hassles and yet provide a high level of instructional and experiential benefit for the Intern and satisfaction for the Doctor.

Q. Is there any compensation for becoming a PEAK Doctor?

A. No. This is a service to the profession, which we believe most doctors in our profession realize that giving to the rising generation is a worthy service. There are some benefits we hope to extended to our Extension Faculty members. They may receive standard faculty discounts for CEU hours at Homecoming, plus they may have Library access and Online research access via Galileo, and faculty access to the Wellness Center facilities and programs.

Q. Can you bill third parties for services performed by the intern?

A. NO. Our policy is to NEVER bill Medicare or any 3rd party payor for any service performed by an intern.

Q. If I am unhappy with the Intern for any reason, am I stuck?

A. No. If you decide the Intern is not working out then you should call the PEAK Director and we will re-assign the intern out of your office. This will not be a casual matter for the Intern but we expect that circumstance to encourage the Intern to provide excellent service in your office.

Q. How much time is going to be required to be a PEAK Doctor?

A. Not as much as you may think. There will be some direct observation so that evaluations of the students performance can be noted by the Doctor and improvements recommended. Those services for which the intern is to receive credit should be observed. Other services need only be supervised. The mandatory weekly meeting can easily be a lunch meeting. We expect the intern to enhance your office experience, once the program and procedures have some time to become familiar. Since there will be some time commitment needed to create value for Doctor and intern, we encourage only those offices that are stable and well organized to participate at this level.

Q. What happens if there is a malpractice claim by a patient the Intern has had an encounter with?

A. Should this unpleasant, but extremely unlikely event occur, the Intern is covered by the Life University malpractice policy, and you will be covered by your own insurance.

Q. If you like an intern and would like to offer an employment opportunity, is there any restriction regarding this?

A. No. They may NOT be compensated for hours involved in completing the PEAK program; however, once they have completed their internship you may bring them onboard as an employee if you wish.

Q. Can I leave the Intern at the office to take care of patients while I run errands or go to lunch?

A. No. When the Intern is providing patient care, you must be in the patient care area.

Q. Can I pay my Interns?

A. NO! It is not allowed for the intern to receive pay for PEAK course related work. If the office requires a long drive time you may offer a gas stipend to offset the cost of gas.