

Newsletter from the University of Florida Online
Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy Program



ALUMNI INTERVIEW: Melissa Goetting, BS, CPHT, MS

In this issue of POP Topics, we talk to **Melissa Goetting**, a Certified Pharmacy Technician with 20 years of experience, about how the Master's degree with specialty focus in Patient Safety in Medication Use opened new doors and changed her career, even before she graduated!

Current job title:

Pharmacy Technician Associate,
Investigative Drug Services, Michigan
Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, MI

Currently resides in:
Toledo, OH

Jobs held during graduate school:

Melissa has an exceptional work ethic. She held up to three additional jobs while attending graduate school including:

- Instructor in Pharmacy Technician program, Ross College
- Security Guard, Hollywood Casino
- IT Help Desk, Hickory Farms (yes, THAT Hickory Farms!)



Join our new LinkedIn Group:
University of Florida Online POP Alumni



Watch on-demand and share with colleagues:
[Informational Webinar on M.S., M.S.+M.B.A., Certificate in POP](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alumni Interview:



The career path of **Melissa F. Goetting**, B.S., CPHT, pursuing an M.S. degree with a focus in Patient Safety in Medication Use.

Employer Partnerships:

The Online POP graduate program partners with employers and associations to offer distance training to multiple employees. Contact [Heather Steingraber](#) to partner with us.

Member Benefits for Online POP Graduate Program (M.S. program only):



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

Members get 50% off first and last course.



International
Society
for Medical
Publication
Professionals™

Members get 50% off first and last course.



ASHP Foundation

Upon completion of ASHP Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy (PLA), earn 6 graduate credits tuition-free.

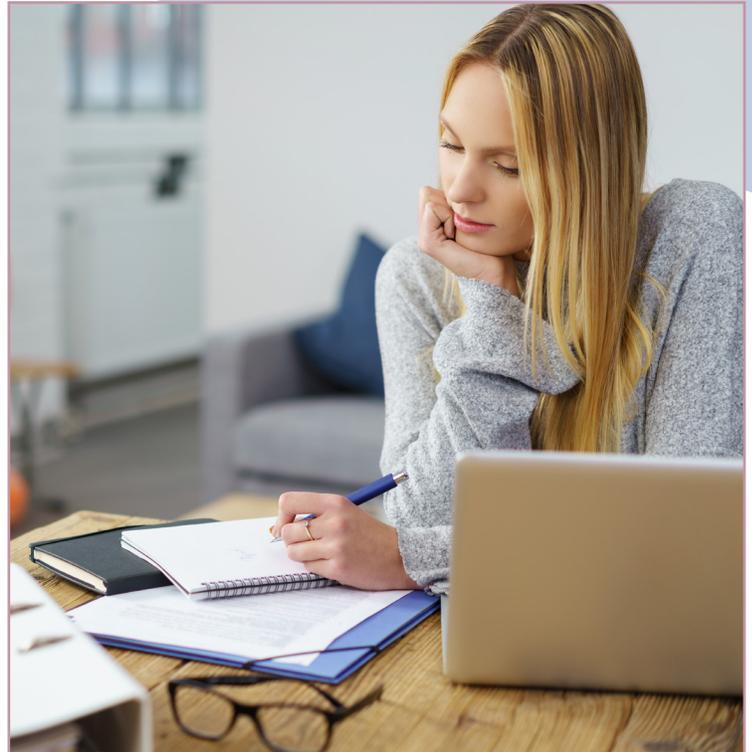
*Academic rigor with commercial application.
Online. Flexible. Real-world.*

3 Words to describe the UF Online POP Graduate program:

Convenient. Rewarding. Flexible.

Why did you choose this program?

So many reasons! UF's College of Pharmacy is a Top-10 ranked, well-respected university. I was drawn to it also because patient safety is a passion of mine (more on that later!). Heather Steingraber, Asst. Program Director, assured me that there were many students who were not pharmacists, and I liked how you could complete the program in less than two years without feeling overloaded. I loved the variety of courses offered and the convenience of the "live" classes on Sunday.



The WHY:



"In my earlier pharmacy technician career, I worked in a very busy and large long-term care pharmacy filling about 25,000 prescriptions a day. I had a special interest in better understanding the dynamics and processes around medication errors, and how to prevent them. I connect the importance of patient safety right to the individual. This graduate program gave me the tools to more directly impact patient safety and the capability to work."

~Melissa F. Goetting, B.S., CPhT



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Favorite Class:



Dr. Hatton's "POP Foundations" class. I learned about the drug development process, pharmacy history and pharmaceutical legislation. I even - with Dr. Hatton's permission - used his "how they come up with drug names and how to pronounce them" lecture in my own class when I was teaching at Ross College!



How has the M.S. Program helped your career?

The Investigative Drug Services hiring team said they were impressed with my desire to continue my education through graduate school. I was actually offered two jobs at University of Michigan in one day, this one and a position in the Cancer Center, and I hadn't even graduated yet!

What did you learn that surprised you?

My eyes were really opened with respect to "just culture," which recognizes that individual practitioners should not be held accountable for system failings over which they have no control. It helps focus on systems and solutions, not blame. This has been so positive in the way I think about universal and reciprocal accountability, and it makes me a better leader.

Would other Pharmacy Technicians benefit?

Absolutely yes! For the pharmacy tech who wants to grow in their knowledge and job opportunities, this is the perfect program for them! It opens up so many options.

” *I loved the 2018 spring seminar on digital health technology. For two full days, I learned from health care executives who are advancing patient care with digital health innovations.*



Melissa Goetting, B.S., CPhT
Pursuing M.S. degree with a focus
in Patient Safety in Medication Use
Anticipated graduation: summer 2018

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Can students really balance work, life, and graduate school?

Absolutely, if you are enrolled in the online POP program. At one point I was working one full-time and two part-time jobs, plus going to school, and was able to maintain my grades, attend all the classes and get assignments in on time. Many students may fail with graduate school because they don't think through the time commitment BEFORE they enroll. If you are really invested in furthering your education, and you plan for the time commitment, you can do it even if you have lots of other things going on in your life.

What stands out about UF POP?

Every professor I've had in this program has been SO passionate about their class; the students see this and it helps them succeed!

**Award-winning
faculty**



Refer a student:

UF Click Here

Application deadlines:

Summer 2019 semester: April 1
Fall 2019 semester: July 29

[Learn more](#)

UF POPtopics

Would you like to be interviewed for POP Topics and share how the UF POP program changed your life and career? [Click here!](#)

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