Pharmacy Residency Program: Prospective Residents

Gulf Coast Area Information

Please see the individual residency pages for detailed information regarding each program.

The GCVHCS Service Area

The Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is part of a network of facilities called Veterans Integrated System Network 16 (VISN). VISN 16 provides healthcare to Veterans living in Louisiana (Alexandria, New Orleans, and Shreveport), Oklahoma (Oklahoma City and Muskogee), Arkansas (Little Rock and Fayetteville), Mississippi (Jackson and Biloxi), and the Florida panhandle.

Sites of Care:

The Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System consists of a main hospital in Biloxi, MS, one multi-specialty outpatient clinic, and three community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). All of these sites will work together to meet the goals we have developed in providing accessible, exceptional care to our Veterans.

GCVHCS facilities are located as follows:

- Medical Center with Community Living Center in Biloxi, MS
- Multi-specialty outpatient clinic in Pensacola, FL
- Community-based outpatient clinics in Mobile, Alabama, Eglin Air Force Base and Panama City, Florida.
**Biloxi VA Medical Center**
Gulf Coast Veterans HCS is a tertiary care facility classified at Clinical Referral Level Two. It is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology, education, and research supported by its affiliations with multiple colleges and universities. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, medicine, surgery, psychiatry, psychology, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, extended care, and physical medicine and rehabilitation.

**Pensacola Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC)**
The Joint Ambulatory Care Center in Pensacola is a full-service clinic. In addition to primary care, the clinic provides laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology services and other programs such as dental care, cardiology, ophthalmology, urology, gastroenterology, ENT, hematology/oncology, women's health, endocrinology, and psychiatry.

**Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)**
Community based outpatient clinics located in Mobile, Eglin Air Force Base, and Panama City are smaller clinics that offer primary care, mental health services, clinical pharmacy services and select specialty services.

In all, the many facilities of the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System offer veterans in our service area a comprehensive system of health care. Many of the specialists located in the medical centers are also available through telehealth technology to allow patients to be seen at the outlying clinics by specialists located at other facilities.

**Biloxi Quick Facts**

Population: 45,975 estimation as of 2016

Biloxi sits along the shores of Mississippi’s gulf coast.

**Weather** – Climate is mild and typical of the Southeast. Average annual low temperature is 60 F and annual high temperature is 76 F with an average temperature of 68.3 F. Average annual precipitation is 65” of rain.

**Things To Do in the Biloxi Area**

Biloxi has been a favorite vacation destination for decades, with sandy beaches and calm waters perfect for jet skiing or deep-sea fishing. Casinos and resorts offer a plethora of excitement and action as well as fine dining options and entertainment.

There are historic sites to visit including Beauvoir, the home of confederate president Jefferson Davis and historical museum.

Visit the famous Beau Rivage Casino, the Golden Nugget, Harrah’s, Hard Rock and others for explosive live entertainment, gambling, food, and dancing. Or enjoy a relaxing day on Biloxi Beach.

Things to do in Biloxi include a visit to the Biloxi Lighthouse and several museums including the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, the Lynn Meadows
Discovery Center (nationally recognized children’s museum), the Infinity Science Center, and the Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum.

Biloxi is also home to the Biloxi Shucker’s minor league baseball team.

Biloxi has a multitude of festivals and events during the year including Mardi Gras celebrations with Biloxi-based Mardi Gras Krewes, the annual Shrimp Festival and Gumbo contest, the Crawfish Festival, and the annual Crab Festival. Other events include Cruisin’ the Coast and Scrapin’ the Coast Car Shows. There is also Christmas on the Water Boat Show, Top of the Hops Beer Festival and Grillin’ on the Green.

Outdoor activities abound in the Biloxi-Gulfport area including fishing, swimming, kayaking, sunset cruises, Ship Island excursions, boating, paddle-boarding, golf, and water parks. Biloxi is home to the Margaritaville Resort with large play area for kids of all ages. A new aquarium in Gulfport is set to open soon.

Nearby cities include New Orleans, LA, Mobile, AL, Pensacola, FL and Jackson, MS.

**Pensacola Quick Facts**

Population: 53,779 estimation as of 2016

Pensacola is the westernmost city in the Florida Panhandle, approximately 13 miles from the border of Alabama.

**Weather** – Climate is mild and tropical typical of a southern Florida environment with a nice breeze from the water that keeps it a little cooler and less stagnant than some areas of central Florida. Average annual low temperature is 59 F and annual high temperature is 76.7 F with an average temperature of 68 F. Spring is from March to May and temperatures range from a low of 52 to a high of 84 on average with a mean temperature between 61-75 F. Summer is from June to September with a range from a low of 73 to a high of 91 F and July being the hottest and wettest month with an average temperature of 83 F and 4.54” rain (annual rainfall is 65”). Fall is October through November with a low of 51 F and a high of 80 F. Winter is from December to February with a low of 43 F and a high of 65 F and January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 53 F.

**Nearby Cities**

To the West

- Florida: Perdido Key (16 miles)
- Alabama: Orange Beach (27 miles), Foley (29 miles), Daphne (54 miles), Mobile (58 miles), Fairhope (60 miles)
- Mississippi: Biloxi (117 miles)
- Louisiana: New Orleans (173 miles)

To the East

- Florida: Gulf Breeze, FL (7 miles), Pace (16 miles), Milton (24 miles), Navarre, FL (25 miles), Fort Walton Beach, FL (40 miles), Destin (48 miles), Eglin AFB (52 miles), Crestview (53 miles), Sandestin (58 miles), Niceville (68 miles), Santa Rosa Beach (65 miles), Panama City Beach (98 miles), Tyndall AFB (115 miles), Tallahassee (198 miles), Jacksonville (359 miles)
To the North
- Alabama: Montgomery (165 miles), Birmingham (216 miles)
- Georgia: Atlanta (285 miles)

Things To Do in the Pensacola Area

Pensacola is home to the Gulf Islands National Seashore and the city offers some of the best fishing and boating in the area. Incredible beach hikes at Ft. Pickens are unforgettable and can be found on the AllTrails app or take the Pensacola Ferry from downtown Pensacola to Ft. Pickens for a hike and then catch a ride on it to the Pensacola Beach strip near Captain Fun’s to grab a drink at Flounder’s before heading back downtown for dinner at one of our top restaurants like Jackson’s, McGuire’s or Fish House. Inland canoeing enthusiasts won’t want to miss the beauty of Blackwater River. Also nearby are Perdido Key State Park and Big Lagoon State Park.

Day trips are recommended to visit nearby Orange Beach (Home of the Wharf Amphitheater), Foley, and Daphne, AL to the west and Santa Rosa Island, Destin, and Panama City to the East.

Closer to town, the city has a proud military heritage, which can be seen as it is home to the Blue Angels and at attractions like the National Museum of Naval Aviation, the Veterans Memorial Park, and the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Other not to miss attractions are the Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum, downtown Pensacola (especially on Gallery Nights), Seville Square, Blue Wahoos Ballpark, Ice Flyers, and UWF Nautilus football.

Bayview park in East Pensacola is a great place to have a birthday party or picnic or go for jog. Catch yoga sessions or farmer’s markets here and downtown on weekends. Dogs love Bayview Dog Beach or the leashed dog beach on Pensacola beach.

Pensacola beach offers shopping, entertainment, and dining. Take a day to lay on the white sand beach listening to the sound of the waves. Grab something to eat and drink at Flounders, the Grand Marlin, Hemmingways, Casino Beach Bar, the Dock or Crabs We Got ‘Em, before renting a bike to head around the tourist strip, the pier and, if you're feeling energized, all the way down to Fort Pickens for some real exercise! You can also rent paddleboards, jet skis, kayaks, boats, or go parasailing. A short scenic drive to the east brings you to Navarre beach where you can visit Juana’s – the thatch roof bar & grill that famously survives every hurricane.

Additional Pharmacy Residency Pages:
Program Home
PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program

For comments/questions about this site, please e-mail:
Katrina.Fantaski@va.gov or Michelle.Richard2@va.gov