

Office of Strategic Programs Office of Program and Strategic Analysis

The Office of Program and Strategic Analysis (OPSA) supports long-term policy-making and policy implementation for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). OPSA consists of five teams, each of which provides specific areas of support to senior management in CDER.

Team	Specialization
Economics Staff	Policy Impact Analysis
Lean Management Staff	Process Improvement
Program Evaluation and Implementation Staff	Program Evaluation
Performance Analysis and Data Services Staff	Performance Reporting
Benefit-Risk Team	Decision Sciences

Examples of the work done by OPSA include the development of a benefit-risk framework for drug review, the provision of reports from internal data systems to other offices in the Center, the implementation of a Center-wide timekeeping system, and root cause analysis of drug shortages.

As part of the Pharmacy Student Experiential Program, students will be able to contribute to high visibility projects that require pharmacist expertise to both track and analyze data related to drug development and review. Examples of these needs include evaluating the substitutability of drug products and helping to develop comprehensive data sets related to clinical trials and drug development. While not required for all projects, experience using statistical software (e.g. Stata, SAS, or R), Excel, or other data analysis tools can be a plus.

Through participation in these projects, students will gain valuable exposure to FDA policy development and implementation from a wide range of backgrounds; OPSA employees include economists, computer scientists, and decision scientists, among others. The work done by students will enhance OPSA's capabilities in assessing the impact of existing or proposed FDA policies on public health outcomes, and in turn enhance long-term regulatory decision-making.

For additional information about OPSA, see the following website:

<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDER/ucm292145.htm>