

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System
Average Rating for 2018 – 2019 4.22

Response Scale: 1 = Poor; 2 = Marginal; 3 = Adequate; 4 = Good; 5 = Excellent; N = NA

Student Comments:

- Overall I enjoyed my experience at this site and learned a lot during my time here.
- Great site, great staff, great everything. Although I was hesitant about this site (just due to being far from home), I really enjoyed my time here and got a lot out of it, as a VA and as a site in general.

Externship Office Comments:

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System
Average Rating for 2019 – 2020 3.89

Response Scale: 1 = Poor; 2 = Marginal; 3 = Adequate; 4 = Good; 5 = Excellent; N = NA

Student Comments:

Externship Office Comments:

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System
Average Rating for 2020 – 2021 3.96

Response Scale: 1 = Poor; 2 = Marginal; 3 = Adequate; 4 = Good; 5 = Excellent; N = NA

- I really enjoyed my time here in Fort Wayne. My time here at the VA has made me consider applying for a residency. The record system took some time to get used to and specific wording for each attending doctor took some time to adjust to. Overall, though, all the attendings were straight forward with their feedback and revisions to the records. The site had a lot of equipment to work with so I really feel I got a lot of practice interpreting the results of the ancillary testing better.
- This clinic experience felt as if it bordered much more of the academic realm vs expected post-graduate patient care experiences. I often felt that the additional academic work provided (e.g. presentations, performance evaluations, chart reviews, etc.) hindered the learning experience as it often created an environment where I was more focused on completing paperwork than being able to have quality thought-provoking clinical reasoning to occur. The majority of the staff and doctors were friendly

and helpful but with a few notable exceptions. However, the biggest issue was that the records system/technology performance at the clinic was completely unacceptable. The amount of times that either the computer systems crashed, the clinic had systematic shutdowns, credentials failing, system security lockouts, or other problems occurred was far too frequent. This had a massive impact on the learning environment and the already decreased inefficiency of the practice. I believe that the amount of disease that I saw at this clinic was overall decreased relative to my previous experiences, and it was unfortunate that the majority of walk-in/red eye patients/acutely symptomatic patients were reserved for the resident doctor to evaluate rather than the students. Having said this, I am not regretting working here since I received more experience managing common posterior segment conditions and got a lot of repetition in glaucoma, diabetes, and macular degeneration as well as various vasculopathic conditions. The systemic health evaluation and access to neurological imaging was superior to previous practices I worked at, and I appreciated the ability to prescribe several costly medications with ease. However, the optical side of prescribing was far inferior to a private sector optical experience. Overall, I would rate this as an adequate experience that is much more appropriate for a new 4th year student transitioning from academic to clinical care during their first rotation. It supplemented my other experiences well.

Externship Office Comments: