

Accepted Student Panel

Start Time: 7:15 PM

End Time: 8:00 PM

PHARMACY SCHOOL SPECIFIC Q's:

1. What made you interested in pursuing pharmacy? What do you look most forward to in pharmacy?

- A. Officer 1: Interested in elementary after learning about it, interested in science through middle and high school, joined Pre-Pharmacy club in college, got more interested in pharmacy through meetings that told about different fields of pharmacy. Look forward to doing residency to explore more about it
- B. Officer 2: Always drawn into healthcare field, in sophomore considered pharmacy, joined the pre-pharmacy club, becoming pharmacy technician solidified the choice. Look forward to meeting more people and learning more
- C. Officer 3: Interested in chemistry in high school and found it interesting, major in pharm chem in college, joined pre-pharmacy club to learn about the different pathways. Look forward to meeting new people and staying close to home
- D. Officer 4: Mother is pharm tech and brought her to the pharmacy at a young age that interested her. Got more interested in sophomore year after joining pre-pharmacy club and also becoming a pharm tech. Enjoyed creating great relationships to coworkers and patient. Look forward to learning more in depth about medication
- E. Officer 5: Mother had bad health so taking medications since young, surrounded by pills for a long time, interested in what they do, in high school, debated between pharmacy and accountant, ultimately decided on pharmacy because economics did not interest her. Learned more as a pharmacy technician and through different meetings from the club. Look forward to explore all other fields of pharmacy, i.e. pediatrics, infectious disease

2. Why and how did you choose your school? What are some of the most important aspects of pharmacy programs you looked for that contributed to your decision on which school to attend?

- A. Officer 1: Was deciding UCSF and UCSD. Decided on UCSF because it has an advanced program to allow for sooner residency opportunity. Public school was cheaper, UCSF closer to home. Considered UCSD but feel like homesickness might've been a problem.
- B. Officer 5: choosing between UCSD and UOP. The cost was a deciding factor. UOP is more expensive as a private school. UCSD is only around 50-70 people in the class compared to UOP that has 200 in a class. Everyone can get together and more opportunities are available. Interested in research opportunity in UCSD
- C. Officer 2: Knew that she wanted do an accelerated program. Accepted in UOP and UCSF but UOP was closer to home. Like the atmosphere in UOP, felt more welcoming, UOP has more connection in the Northern California region
- D. Officer 3: Applied to more than 5 schools. Narrowed areas to California schools. Considered costs and benefits from graduating. USC is close to home and lowers cost. USC has a close alumni network which will benefit on the long run. The pass rates of the board exams are another considering factor.
- E. Officer 4: Decided between UCSF and UCSD, both schools were very similar. Got to talk to multiple students in each school, came down to personal preference. UCSF was closer to home. One UCSD con was that they don't have a wide clinical rotation opportunities (only reaches to LA) whereas UCSF is spread throughout California.

PHARMACY SCHOOL APPS Q's:

1. What do you consider most important in standing out as an applicant?

- A. Officer 1: Personal statement and supplemental questions are what really differentiates you. GPA and PCAT are ultimately just numbers. A lot of people say be genuine in your writing and really reflect why pharmacy. Also talk about future goals and what you view your role would be in pharmacy. Also keep an open mind about different specialties in pharmacy.
- B. Officer 2: Personal statement is an important aspect. Really want to tell a story, explain who you are and why you want to do pharmacy. Another aspect is being a well-rounded person (other extracurriculars other than just pharmacy)
- C. Officer 3: Experience will help you stand out. Learn soft skills that you can talk about and relate to pharmacy school.
- D. Officer 4: Personal statement is where you want to show yourself the most. This is what you want to achieve, who you are, and what you will gain, what you will do for the people. Another aspect is getting good letter of

recommendations. Schools not only look at your own voice, but also what others speak about your character.

- E. Officer 5: "Be yourself" you know yourself the best, you know what you want to put yourself out there. Interview process also allows you know more about your school

2. What did you find most challenging about the process of applying to pharmacy school? Which part of the process did you prioritize and why?

- A. Officer 1: Supplemental questions were definitely challenging along with essays. Also, looking for who to write your letter of recommendations was also challenging because you want someone to be able to talk about your characteristics very well. Prioritized starting early and planning
- B. Officer 5: Difficult part was getting started. Kept telling herself that she'll work on it in summer but ultimately started near of summer. Spent lots of times on the essays and supplemental questions. Went to HPA advising for help on drafting and jotting down ideas
- C. Officer 2: Supplement questions, letters of recommendations, and essays were difficult. Prioritized writing the personal statement very early. Finding out who to ask for letter of recommendations was challenging.
- D. Officer 3: The short essays were challenging, more than the interviews. Advice: some school say optional on certain essays but definitely answer it because you show that you're eager to get into the school. Prioritized transcripts from different schools and essays because it's a lot of work.
- E. Officer 4: Personal statement was challenging. Don't procrastinate it and get feedback on it. Letter of recommendations were challenging to find, had to work hard as a pharm tech to gain letter from supervisor. Have to allow the professors a good amount time to ask for letter of recommendations.

3. How far in advance do you write the supplemental questions?

- A. Officer 1: Prioritized personal statement because once you send your first application, your personal statement would be set. Focused on supplemental questions afterwards

4. Do you need pharmacy-related experience to get into pharmacy school?

- A. Officer 1: Work as a pharm tech. It shaped her application but drawing from other experiences also helped displayed about her characteristics. For example, being an orientation leader. Drawing about different experiences will make you a stronger experience
- B. Officer 4: It's important to have different experiences, but also important to have pharmacy-related experiences. Lots of situational questions that ask what you do in certain scenarios in pharmacy.
- C. Officer 3: Don't need to have pharmacy related experiences but it will definitely help in interview.

5. What was your process in creating your personal statement?

- A. Officer 1: started drafting essay in spring quarter of junior year in UWP 104F class. Throughout summer, asked more pharmacy students for feedback. Important to have time to reflect about your essays and your wording
- B. Officer 5: drafting ideas and going to HPA to get help through talking to them and rewrite essays. Ask friends about grammar and wording. Made it unique through telling a story and being genuine.
- C. Officer 2: Jotted down what she wanted to talk about and about situations that really impacted her decision to go to pharmacy schools. Don't overload your personal statements with experiences but write how something impacted you.
- D. Officer 3: Used what she had from UWP 104F as a template for the personal statement she submitted. Did pharm tech during her first year of her gap year and updated it through the years. Asked for peer feedback and edited it.
- E. Officer 4: Threw all her ideas on a google docs and wrote. Had someone handpick her ideas to see what stood out to them and helped narrow down what she wanted to write. Her personal statement was pretty connected to her and was emotional. Interviews are similar to personal statement.

6. How did you organize your time during the application process?

- A. Officer 1: coming up with a timeline with the deadlines that you have and visualize what you want prioritize for what schools you want to go to. Research the different schools to see all the deadlines. Visualizing deadlines makes her more motivated