

How to Be A Competitive Applicant

- Meeting starts at 7:06 PM
- Icebreaker - share a meme; ends at 7:19 PM
- PharmCAS
 - Opens July 14th for 2021-2022 cycle
 - Read all PharmCAS instructions and use the checklist
 - Review the requirements:
 - Prerequisites
 - Supplemental application
 - Make sure you have all materials
 - Transcripts
 - Evaluations
 - PCAT scores
 - Supplemental essay for diff schools
 - Personal statement
 - Write down all your experiences, start brainstorming them
 - Give yourself enough time to make plenty of revisions and to make feedback from multiple people
 - Use your resources: UWP 104F, HPA, SASC
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Most schools require 3-4 letters
 - Receive them a month before the deadline
- GPA/grades
 - Minimum GPA
 - 2.6/3.0 cumulative GPA
 - At least a 2.6 in science GPA (varies by school)
 - PharmCAS calculates GPA
 - Includes repeated and failed courses
 - Ds and Fs are averaged
 - Most schools calculate their GPAs differently
 - Competitive candidate
 - Higher than 3.0 GPA or improvements
 - Most schools will require a C or higher in courses
 - There is a section on the app to explain
 - Ex. particularly rough quarter where your grades suffered, etc
- Prereq courses
 - Chemistry
 - Biology
 - Physics

- Organic chem
- calc/stats
- Human physiology
- Social sciences (communication, economics, psychology, sociology, anthropology)
- Extracurriculars
 - Any experiences are valuable!
 - Research (science-related)
 - Clubs
 - Health related internships
 - Student-run clinics
 - Work experience (pharm tech, EMT)
 - Community service and volunteer
 - Be an active member of the Pre-Pharmacy Club!
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Many more!
- Letters of recommendations
 - Start building relations in the beginning of the quarter
 - Form study groups, attend office hours, be active on Piazza, set up appointments with your professor
 - Choose letter writers that can write strong letters speaking to your character
 - Asking for the letter
 - Be prepared to submit a draft of your personal statement, resume, CV, etc
 - LOR's will be accepted through PharmCAS
- PCAT
 - Requirements
 - Not required by many schools
 - Schools may consider it as another part of your app if you choose to submit it
 - When to take
 - Usually taken the summer before applying
 - Give enough time to study (3-4 months)
 - 5 subtests
 - Writing
 - Biological processes
 - Chemical processes
 - Critical reading
 - Quantitative reasoning
 - Scoring
 - Score scale 200-600, median around 400

- Tip 1: prepare a timeline
 - Freshman - get involved in extracurriculars, go to office hours, develop good study habits
 - Sophomore - start looking for research positions/internships, apply for leadership positions
 - Junior - familiarize yourself with potential pharm schools, start thinking of LOR/personal statements
 - Senior - start pharmCAS account early, gather LOR, prepare for interview
- Tip 2: put deadlines on calendar
 - Make a calendar of when things are due
 - Early decision deadlines
 - Supplemental applications (deadlines vary by school)
 - Rolling admissions
 - The earlier you submit the better chances are
 - Check which schools offer rolling admissions
 - Some schools have “tier”
- Tip 3: reach out for help early
 - Network with other pre-pharmacy students, faculty members, admission officers, and pharmacists
 - HPA advising: pharmCAS workshops, personal statement, PCAT prep, interview workshops
 - Find mentors, ask questions, ask friends/family to revise personal statements and supplemental essays
- Upcoming events
 - R&E interview workshop 5/25, 7PM
 - Study social 5/27, 5PM
 - BANQUET - 5/29, 7PM
 - Officer hours
- How late is too late in terms of preparing for pharmacy school?
 - Rania - never too late, she's going to pharm school this upcoming year and there are ppl in her upcoming class who are in their late 20s/early 30s so it's never too late, you might not have a traditional route, but that's totally fine bc everyone does it differently, just make sure you have the prereqs
- When is a good time to ask for LORs?
 - Rania - if you are applying this cycle in July, tell your profs/letter writers in March bc there are so many students who will be asking the same profs for letters so ask first because they may have a quota, some profs also don't write letters over summer, follow up sometimes
 - Jessica/James - make sure to have a draft of your personal statement, resume, expect 1 week replies