

Pharmacy Admissions Interview Workshop

Purdue Pharmacy Ambassadors

Developed By: Elena Coppel

Presented By: Lindsey Stoeckinger

New Info...

- Interact with a panel of upperclassmen in the program (professional students)
 - Scheduled sessions 4 times/day
 - 9:00 am , 9:45 am, 1:45 pm, 2:30 pm
 - Must be done on the same day as interview
- English usage quiz
 - No longer worth additional application points
- New questions for writing exercise
 - New process to score (still not part of your total application score)
- Closed application
 - No specific questions from application
 - Know specific examples!
- Cannot find out who second interviewer is

Preparation

- Research
 - Know about the position
 - Familiarize yourself with the school
 - Catch up on current events
 - Purdue Pharmacy website is a good resource
 - Go over strengths and weaknesses
 - Research your interviewer
 - Go online (Purdue Pharmacy website)
 - Webpage with educational background, research, classes taught, etc.
 - Prepare a question to ask the interviewer at the end of the interview
 - About Purdue's pharmacy school, pharmacy in general, etc.
 - Don't feel obligated to ask a question
 - Make it short/brief

General Comments About Weaknesses

Think of your weakness as a developmental area. Try to make it something small. The interviewer wants you to prove you can identify an area for development and do something about it. Talk about how you've worked to improve your weakness, the progress you've made, and the future plans you've made for further improvement.

What to Wear

WOMEN

- Solid color, conservative suit
- Coordinated blouse
- Moderate shoes
- Limited jewelry
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- Tan or light hosiery
- Sparse make-up & no perfume
- Manicured nails
- Portfolio or briefcase (optional)

MEN

- Solid color, conservative suit
- White, long sleeve shirt
- Conservative tie
- Dark socks, professional shoes
- Very limited jewelry
- Neat, professional hairstyle
- No aftershave
- Neatly trimmed nails
- Portfolio or briefcase (optional)

*Practice dress up the week before

The Interview

- The second you walk in the door...

YOU ARE BEING EVALUATED!

- Be professional at all times because anyone could be evaluating you.

The Interview (cont.)

- Listen carefully to the question and pause briefly, if needed, to collect your thoughts before answering.
 - Most questions had a follow-up question related to your response.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions for clarification. If you don't understand the question, just ask!
- Firm handshake
- Posture
- Eye contact
 - Direct your answer to the person who asked the question. Give them the majority of the eye contact, while still looking over at the other interviewer occasionally.
- Relax!
- Thank them before you leave and shake their hand again.
- Follow up (optional)

Pharmacy School Admissions Interview

- Last week in February
- 300 most qualified applicants
- 30 minutes
- Two interviewers
 - One from admissions committee and one faculty/staff member.
- Video-recorded oral communication exercise
- Written paragraph & English usage quiz
- Interact with panel of professional students
- Wear business attire- treat as a job interview

General Information

- Letter will say who the admissions interviewer is.
- Suit not required (but encouraged)
- Women- dress pants or skirt and blouse
- Men- pants, dress shirt, and tie
- You may bring a copy of your application to the interview (optional)
 - Make sure folder is nice
 - Feel free to take notes in your portfolio if appropriate.
- Other things you may want to bring:
 - Questions for your interviewers
 - Resume

Things to Go Over Before Interview

- Why do you want to be a pharmacist?
- What can you contribute as a student to the School of Pharmacy?
- Know your application! (You are allowed to keep and bring a copy for yourself... You are not expected to memorize your entire application.) You will be asked more general questions this year, so it's up to you to provide specific examples for the interviewer.
 - Strengths and Weaknesses
 - Professional Interests
 - Essays

General Advice

- Sell yourself
- Ethics are huge
- Keep your confidence no matter what!!

Interview Topics

- General Icebreaker Question
 - Could simply be asked by saying, “Tell me about yourself.”
- Academics
- Career Exploration/Planning
- Extracurricular/Work
- Character/Abilities/Self Development
- Intellectual Curiosity/Passion
- Commitment

What Do We Think They Are Looking For?

- Sincerity
- Honesty
- Confidence and Poise
- Genuine Passion for the Profession
- Good Interpersonal Skills
- Knowledge about Pharmacy Profession
- Maturity
- Balance
- Goals/Sense of Purpose
- Good Handshake
- Initiative
- Think quickly on feet, but still give well thought-out answers

List of Unusual Questions

- If you would like to specialize in pediatric pharmacy, why don't you want to go to medical school to become a pediatrician?
- Did you apply to other schools?
- What do you think about academic dishonesty? Have you ever seen it, and what did/would you do?
- If you woke up tomorrow and pharmacy was no longer a profession in the world, what would you pursue instead?
- If you don't get into pharmacy school, what is your back-up plan?
- (If you're an out-of-state student) Why did you choose Purdue instead of another university with a pharmacy school in your home state?
- How would you give back to the pharmacy profession after completing pharmacy school?
- If you are/were struggling in a class, what did/would you do to improve?

Helpful Websites

- <http://www.aphanet.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=3553>
- <http://www.aacp.org/site/tertiary.asp?TRACKID=&VID=2&CID=686&DID=6340>
- <http://www.aacp.org/site/tertiary.asp?TRACKID=&VID=2&CID=686&DID=4748>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharmacy>

Your Turn

Can you think of a good question they might ask you?