

Applying to Pharmacy School

Presented by
Kenneth Ta





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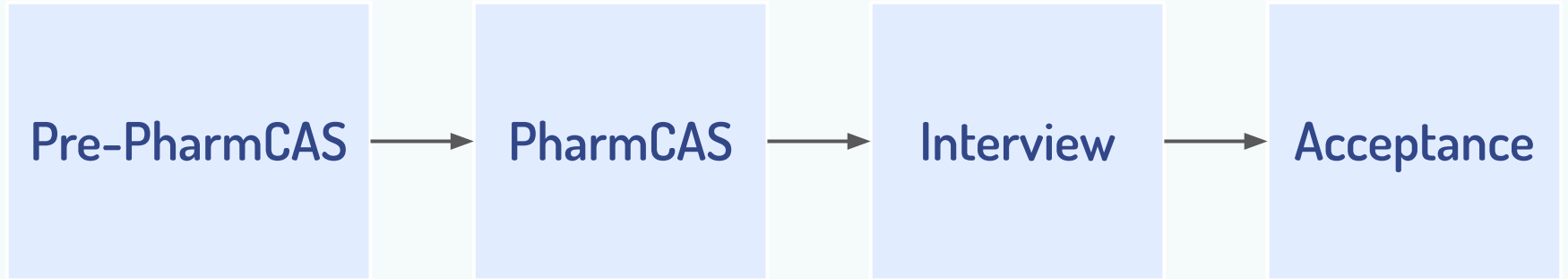
President



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

SKAGGS SCHOOL *of* PHARMACY
and PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Pharmacy School Application Timeline



7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19
<p>PharmCAS opened (7/19/19)</p>	<p>Worked on Personal Statement</p> <p>Worked on LOR Packet</p> <p>Created PharmCAS account (8/30/19)</p>	<p>Asked for LOR Writer #1 [deadline: 11/25/19]</p> <p>Asked for LOR Writer #2 [deadline: 11/25/19]</p> <p>Asked for LOR Writer #3 [deadline: 11/25/19]</p> <p>LOR Writer #1 submitted LOR (9/27/19)</p> <p>LOR Writer #2 submitted LOR (9/24/19)</p>	<p>Filled out PharmCAS (10/01/19)</p> <p>Worked on Personal Statement</p> <p>Worked on Pharmacy School Supplementals</p> <p>Sent transcripts (expressed) via Registrar (10/12/19)</p>
11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20
<p>Finalized Personal Statement</p> <p>Finalized Pharmacy School Supplementals</p> <p>LOR Writer #3 submitted LOR</p>	<p>Submitted PharmCAS application (12/2/19)</p> <p>Applied to UCSD [non-rolling admission] (12/2/19)</p> <p>Applied to USC [rolling admission] (12/2/19)</p>	<p>Interviewed: UCSD (1/10/20)</p> <p>Interviewed: USC (1/17/20)</p> <p>Acceptance: USC (1/29/20)</p>	<p>Accepted: UCSD (2/13/20)</p> <p>Declined Offer: USC (2/13/20)</p>

01

Pre-PharmCAS



Pre-PharmCAS Checklist

- Create Pharmacy School List
- Start Writing Personal Statement
- [Letter of Recommendation Packet](#)
- Ask for Letters of Recommendation

Pharmacy School List

- **Some things to consider**

- Accreditation, focus, location, (network) opportunities, timeline, cost, campus environment, class size, prerequisites, dual-degrees, campus organizations, community involvement, etc.

- **Do your research**

- PPS: Pre-Pharmacy Day (PPD) at UCI, Southern California Pre-Pharmacy Symposium (SCPPS), NorCal Trip, General Meetings, Pharmacy School trips
- Other: Pharmacy School Preview Day(s), online research

- **Once you have your list**

- Plan upper division requirements (anatomy/lab, microbio/lab, etc.)
- Plan for any tests you have to take (PCAT)

02


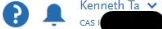

PharmCAS



PharmCAS Checklist

- Create PharmCAS account
- Send Official Transcripts to PharmCAS
- Fill out PharmCAS
- Finalize Personal Statement
- Complete Pharmacy School Supplemental(s)
- Send Finalized Application to Pharmacy Schools

My Application



My Application Add Program Submit Application Check Status





My Application

This dashboard is your application home providing access to each part of the application you need to complete and a high level overview of your progress.

Latest Notifications

- PharmCAS Academic Update 02/23/2020
Verified
- PharmCAS application - transcript received 02/21/2020

[View My Notifications](#)

<h3>Personal Information</h3>  <p>8/8 Sections Completed</p>	<h3>Academic History</h3>  <p>4/4 Sections Completed</p>
<h3>Supporting Information</h3>  <p>5/7 Sections Completed</p>	<h3>Program Materials</h3>  <p>2/2 Sections Completed</p>

Personal Information

Sections:

1. Release Statement
2. Biographic Information
3. Contact Information
4. Citizenship Information
5. Parent Guardian
6. Race & Ethnicity
7. Other Information
8. Military History

My Application

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Latest Notifications

- PharmCAS Academic Update Verified 02/23/2020
- PharmCAS application - transcript received 02/21/2020

[View My Notifications](#)

Personal Information
8/8 Sections Completed

- Release Statement ✓
- Biographic Information ✓
- Contact Information ✓
- Citizenship Information ✓
- Parent/Guardian ✓
- Race & Ethnicity ✓
- Other Information ✓
- Military History ✓

Academic History

Sections:

1. High Schools Attended
2. Colleges Attended
3. Transcript Entry
4. Standardized Tests

My Application

This dashboard is your application home providing access to each part of the application you need to complete and a high level overview of your progress.

Latest Notifications

- ① PharmCAS Academic Update Verified 02/23/2020
- ① PharmCAS application - transcript received 02/21/2020


[View My Notifications](#)

Academic History
4/4 Sections Completed

- High Schools Attended ✓
- Colleges Attended ✓
- Transcript Entry ✓
- Standardized Tests ✓

Transcript Entry: Adding Coursework and AP Scores

* Indicates required field

Fall 2016 Freshman 

* COURSE CODE	* COURSE TITLE	* SUBJECT	* CREDITS	* GRADE	CAS GRADE
BIO SCI 93	DNA TO ORGANISMS	Biology	4.00	A+	A+
CHEM 1A	GENERAL CHEMISTRY	Chemistry	4.00	A	A
ANTHRO 41A	GLOBAL CULTURES&SO	Cultural Studies	4.00	A+	A+
PSYCH 9C	PSYCH FUNDAMENTAL:	Psychology	4.00	A	A
PHRMSCI 1	NEW STUDENT SEMINA	Orientation	1.00	P	P
AP ECONOMICS	AP ECONOMICS: MACR	Economics	4.00	CR	Nor
AP ENGLISH LIT	AP ENGLISH LITERATUR	Literature	8.00	CR	Nor
AP GOVT & POL:	AP UNITED STATES GOV	Government	4.00	CR	Nor
AP U.S. HISTORY	AP UNITED STATES HIST	History	8.00	CR	Nor
AP BIOLOGY	AP BIOLOGY	Biology	8.00	CR	Nor
AP STATISTICS	AP STATISTICS	Statistics	4.00	CR	Nor
AP EUROPEAN H	AP EUROPEAN HISTORY	History	8.00	CR	Nor
AP CALCULUS AI	AP CALCULUS AB	Calculus	4.00	CR	Nor

[+ Add A Course](#) [+ Add A Quarter](#)

Supporting Information

Sections:

1. Evaluations
2. Experiences
3. Achievements
4. Licenses and Certifications
5. Personal Essay
6. COVID-19 Transcript Hardships
7. Documents

The screenshot displays the 'My Application' dashboard. On the left, there is a 'Latest Notifications' section with two items: 'PharmCAS Academic Update Verified' (dated 02/23/2020) and 'PharmCAS application - transcript received' (dated 02/21/2020). A 'View My Notifications' button is located below these notifications. The main area features a 'Supporting Information' section with a folder icon and a progress indicator showing '5/7' sections completed. A vertical list of application sections is shown on the right, each with a checkmark icon indicating completion: Evaluations, Experiences, Achievements, Licenses and Certifications, Personal Essay, COVID-19 Transcript Hardships, and Documents.

My Application

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Supporting Information

5/7 Sections Completed

Latest Notifications

- PharmCAS Academic Update Verified 02/23/2020
- PharmCAS application - transcript received 02/21/2020

[View My Notifications](#)

- Evaluations ✓
- Experiences ✓
- Achievements ✓
- Licenses and Certifications ✓
- Personal Essay ✓
- COVID-19 Transcript Hardships
- Documents

Experiences



Evaluations ✓

Experiences ✓

Achievements ✓

Licenses and Certifications ✓

Personal Essay ✓

COVID-19 Transcript Hardships

Documents

Experiences

You may update the information in this section at any time prior to submission. Once you have submitted, you will be able to add more Experiences, but you will not be able to update or delete completed Experiences.

You are strongly encouraged to complete this section.

Enter your professional experiences in several categories, or types, in this section. [Click here](#) to review the definitions, consider the duties you performed, and choose the category that you think best fits the experience.

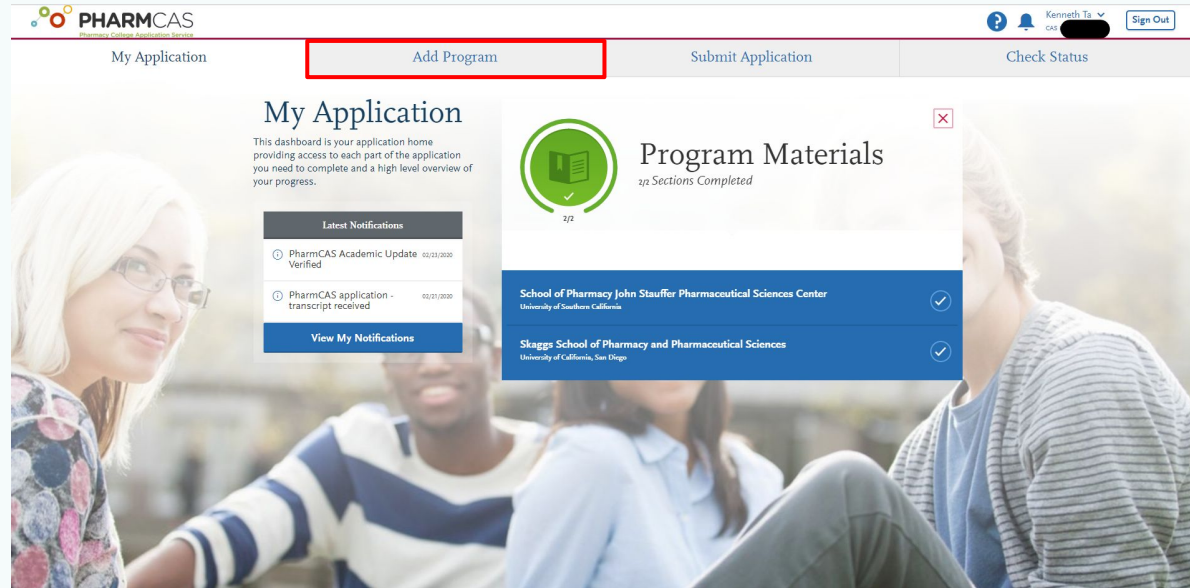
+ Add an Experience

★ MY EXPERIENCES

TYPE	ISSUING ORGANIZATION	DATE	TITLE		
Extracurricular Activities	Pre-Pharmacy Society at UC Irvine	05/25/2019 - Till Date	President	/	🗑️
Pharmacy Experience	Rite Aid	07/28/2018 - Till Date	Pharmacy Technician	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Pre-Pharmacy Society at UC Irvine	05/26/2018 - 05/25/2019	External Vice President	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Commuter Connection	09/28/2017 - 06/08/2018	Tutor	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Commuter Connection	09/28/2017 - Till Date	Mentor	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Pharmaceutical Sciences Mentorship Program	05/28/2017 - 05/24/2019	Mentor	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Pre-Pharmacy Society at UC Irvine	05/27/2017 - 05/26/2018	Treasurer	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Commuter Connection	01/09/2017 - 06/09/2017	Member	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Pre-Pharmacy Society at UC Irvine	09/28/2016 - 05/27/2017	General Member	/	🗑️
Extracurricular Activities	Pharmaceutical Sciences Mentorship	09/19/2016 - 06/01/2017	Mentee	/	🗑️

Program Materials

1. On the PharmCAS home page, click "Add Program"
2. Search your pharmacy school(s) of interest
3. Click on the "+" button to the left of the pharmacy school name




The screenshot displays the PharmCAS user interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'My Application', 'Add Program' (highlighted with a red box), 'Submit Application', and 'Check Status'. The 'Add Program' button is highlighted with a red box. The main content area features a 'My Application' section with a description and a 'Latest Notifications' table. A 'Program Materials' modal window is open, showing a progress indicator '2/2' and a list of pharmacy schools with checkmarks indicating completed sections.

Latest Notifications	
PharmCAS Academic Update Verified	02/21/2020
PharmCAS application - transcript received	02/21/2020

Program Materials	Progress
School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center University of Southern California	✓
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences University of California, San Diego	✓

Program Materials

 ? 🔔 Kenneth Ta
CAS ID [REDACTED] Sign Out

[My Application](#) [Add Program](#) [Submit Application](#) [Check Status](#)


To learn more about becoming a pharmacist and search for specific Pharm.D. programs which meet your interests, please visit the [PharmCAS School Directory](#).


School: Accreditation:

Show Available Programs Past Programs Future Programs


PROGRAM NAME	LEVEL	START YEAR	CITY	STATE	ACCREDITATION	DEADLINE
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - NY & VT						
+ Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - NY & VT	PharmD	2020	Albany, NY & Colchester, VT	Multiple States	Full Accreditation	07/01/2020
American University of Health Sciences						
+ Doctor of Pharmacy	PharmD	2020	Signal Hill	CA	Pre-Candidate	06/01/2020
Appalachian College of Pharmacy						
+ College of Pharmacy	PharmD	2020	Oakwood	VA	Full Accreditation	07/01/2020
Auburn University						
+ Harrison School of Pharmacy	PharmD	2020	Auburn	AL	Full Accreditation	07/01/2020
Belmont University						
+ College of Pharmacy	PharmD	2020	Nashville	TN	Full Accreditation	07/01/2020
Binghamton University - SUNY						
+ School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	PharmD	2020	Binghamton	NY	Candidate	06/01/2020
California Health Sciences University						
+ College of Pharmacy	PharmD	2020	Clovis	CA	Candidate	06/01/2020

Program Materials


My Application



2/3
Sections Completed



Home Prerequisites

School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center
University of Southern California

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of California, San Diego

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) at the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) was established to serve the needs of the citizens of the state of California, the nation and the global community. As a university ranked among the top in the United States, SSPPS has a three-part mission of education, research and service. UC San Diego SSPPS offers students an innovative and flexible curriculum leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree taught by a world health-science faculty in a program closely associated with UC San Diego School of Medicine as well as the university's outstanding clinical, research and academic programs. Our graduates perform very well on board examination and in the residency and fellowship match process.

To learn more, [click here](#). **Please remember that in addition to submitting your PharmCAS application for our school, a supplemental application must also be completed. Fee waivers for our supplemental application may be requested.**

A Unique Program for the Future of Pharmacy

Students at SSPPS are an integral part of the rich academic and research environment on the UC San Diego campus. Illustrating the interdisciplinary values of the top-ranked university, pharmacy and medical students develop a foundation in the biomedical sciences in common classes and shared volunteer/community clinical experiences. The programs at SSPPS provide a broad-based curriculum with strong basic sciences, a diversity of clinical experiences and the opportunity for independent study in a variety of research and clinical settings. The school offers opportunities for internships abroad, taking advantage of many collaborative programs. To learn more about our innovative PharmD curriculum, please visit [pharmacy.ucsd.edu](#).

Skaggs School of Pharmacy's Mission


- Provide a premier professional education program leading to the PharmD degree and postgraduate programs, including residencies and fellowships
- Prepare future pharmacy leaders and provide them with the tools to effectively practice in a wide variety of existing and future roles
- Develop and maintain research initiatives in the basic, clinical and computational sciences to discover new knowledge and new approaches to enhance health care
- Promote interdisciplinary education between pharmacy and medicine
- Foster collaboration with other UC San Diego programs and local institutions to enhance and expand education and research opportunities
- Serve as the regional center for dissemination of drug, toxicology and pharmaco-genomics information for health professionals and the public.


In addition to the PharmCAS application, each applicant must complete an [on-line supplemental application](#) and submit payment of a supplemental non-refundable fee.

The deadline for completion of the supplemental application and receipt of the \$120 supplemental application fee is also November 1, 2019. Applicants who have not completed the supplemental application and/or submitted the supplemental application fee will not be processed. The link to the supplemental application will be available in July 2019 and close on November 1, 2019 until 11:59 pm Pacific Standard Time. Students may request a waiver of supplemental application fee. [Please go here for more information](#)


Program Details

Start Year: 2020	Deadline: December 3, 2019	Level: PharmD
Program Name: Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	State: CA	Accreditation: Full Accreditation
City: San Diego		


My Application
Add Program



2/2
Sections Completed



Home Prerequisites

School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center
University of Southern California

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of California, San Diego

Prerequisites

You must complete your Transcript Entry in the Academic History section before you can identify prerequisites.

Please refer to the following webpage for complete details regarding prerequisites for the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy. <https://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/prospective/admissions-reqs.shtml>

We ask that prospective applicants use their best professional judgment to determine whether completed, in-progress, and planned coursework meets our academic requirements. Please keep in mind that our academic prerequisites are fairly easy to define. In general, we align our requirements with pre-med/health coursework. Entrance examinations such as the P.C.A.T or G.R.E. are **not required**. No specific undergraduate major is recommended or required, but all applicants must have completed the following minimum pre-requisite coursework at an accredited college or university in the United States. A minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 is required to apply. A solid understanding of the fundamental sciences is essential for the study of the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences. Applicants must have successfully completed the following pre-requisite science coursework. **A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended in each category.**

Biology

One year (12 quarter or 8 semester units) of Biology[®]

Must include at least one laboratory

Must include cell and molecular biology and the study of the biology of whole animals or humans

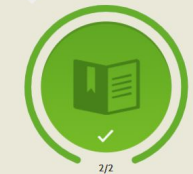
Chemistry

One year (12 quarter or 8 semester units) of general chemistry[®]

Must include one year of laboratory


Pharmacy School Supplementals

- **Some pharmacy schools have their supplemental essays on PharmCAS, but others DON'T, and instead have their essays on their own pharmacy website**
 - Make sure to double-check to ensure you've fulfilled all application requirements!
- **Yet, there are also pharmacy schools that don't require supplemental essays**
- **Some pharmacy schools ask for 2-3 "long" essays, while other pharmacy schools may ask for 6-8 "short" essays**
 - Long essays: ~2000-4000 characters max (400 words max)
 - Short essays: ~1500 characters max



2/2
Sections Completed

School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center
University of Southern California

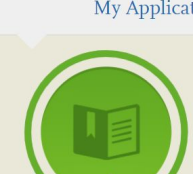


USC School of Pharmacy

School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center

Deadline: 12/02/2019

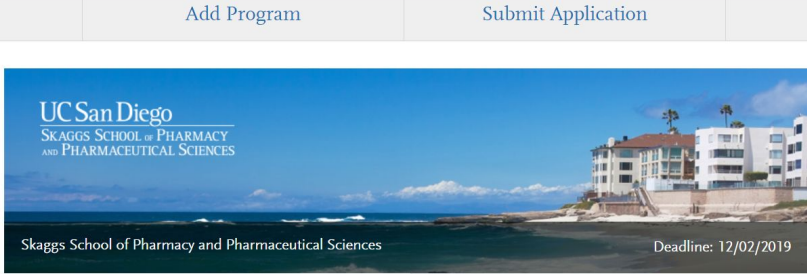
Home Questions Documents Prerequisites



2/2
Sections Completed

School of Pharmacy John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center
University of Southern California

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of California, San Diego



UC San Diego SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Deadline: 12/02/2019

Home Prerequisites

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SSPPS) at the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) was established to serve the needs of the citizens of the state of California, the nation and the global community. As university ranked among the top in the United States, SSPPS has a three-part mission of education, research and service. UC San Diego SSPPS offers students an innovative and flexible curriculum leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree, taught by stellar health sciences

Pharmacy School Supplementals

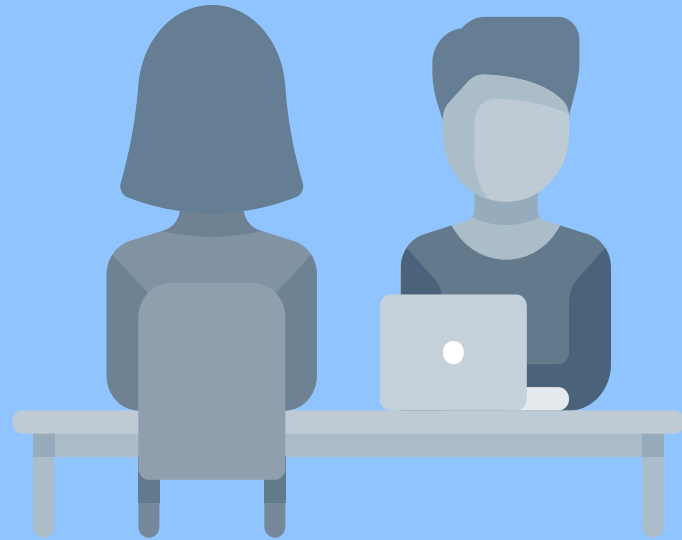
- **Typical themes:**
 - “Why our school?”
 - “Why pharmacy?”
 - “What makes you unique/stand out from others?”
- **Some other topics to consider**
 - “What community service have you done?”
 - “What are your hobbies?”
 - “What’s a current issue (healthcare-related) that you believe needs more attention?”

Submitting Your PharmCas Application

- **Start & Submit EARLY**
 - Pharmacy School Early Decision (ED)
 - Rolling Admission v. Non-rolling Admission - KNOW WHICH SCHOOLS EMPLOY WHAT
 - **Keep in mind that PharmCAS' deadlines are Eastern Time Zone (ETZ)!!!**
- **Be STRATEGIC**
 - Don't immediately submit every application at the same time
 - Be knowledgeable about interview dates (found on school's website), and plan accordingly
 - Because pharmacy schools (almost) always interview on Friday/Saturday, if you submit all your applications at the same time, there's a high percentage that they might land on the same day
- **Cost of Submission: \$175 for first application and \$55 for each additional one plus any supplemental fees (Ex. UCSD costs \$120)**

03

Interview



Interview

- **Pharmacy schools conduct interviews within the confines of an entire Interview DAY**
 - This day can last from 3-7 hours
 - Typically comprises of check-in, welcome, lunch, school tour, essay, interview, and student/faculty panels, among other things
- **Some things to consider**
 - You might have to skip class, work, or volunteering to attend your interview day
 - It's very difficult to reschedule an Interview Day
 - Travel costs (flights, hotels, transportation, food, etc.)
 - Weather on the day-of
 - Parking
 - Traffic

Interview (cont.)

- **Pharmacy schools can employ any of the following interview formats - be prepared!**
 - Traditional Interview
 - Typically 2-3 interviewers, comprised of faculty and current students
 - Multiple-Mini-Interview (MMI)
 - 6-12 stations, each with a scenario/question
 - Hybrid-MMI
 - 2-5 MMI stations, one of which includes a traditional interview
- **Interviews can last anywhere between 20 minutes to an hour**

Interview (cont.)

- **Questions**
 - Typical
 - “Tell me about yourself.”
 - “Why pharmacy?”
 - “Why this school?”
 - Situational
 - “If you are working with a teammate, and said teammate doesn’t pull their weight, what would you do?”
 - “Tell me a time when you, as a leader, solved a problem/conflict.”
 - Profession-based
 - “Tell me about your experiences with the field of pharmacy.”
 - “What specific niche of pharmacy do you want to pursue?”

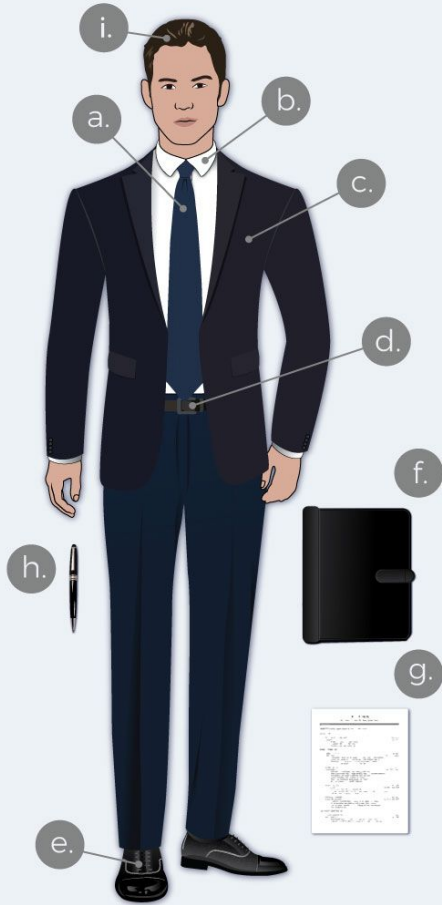
Interview (cont.)

- **DO**

- Shake the interviewer(s) hand among entering
- Tell a story and elaborate on your answers, rather than answer the question in a few words
 - Be careful not to over-elaborate, or go off topic
- Smile, be cognizant of your facial expressions, and stay engaged (not only in the interview, but the entire Interview Day)
 - Make sure to talk with other applicants or faculty/students when you have a chance
- Ask questions at the end of the interview

- **DON'T**

- Fidget in your chair
- Pause without warning
- Make quirky noises/outbursts
- Speed through your answer
- Lie



INTERVIEW DRESS CODE

- a. Classic necktie
- b. Pressed clean dress shirt
- c. Classic business suit
- d. Leather belt
- e. Polished leather shoes
- f. Leather notebook
- g. Resume
- h. Working professional pen
- i. Clean haircut

WHAT TO WEAR TO AN INTERVIEW

SUIT

Wear a fitted, single breasted suit.

COLOURS

Wear neutral colours and try to avoid garish prints!

SHOES

Wear comfortable shoes. heels are fine, but stilettos not so much



HAIRSTYLE

Make sure your hair is well-kempt, and in a neat professional style.

JACKET

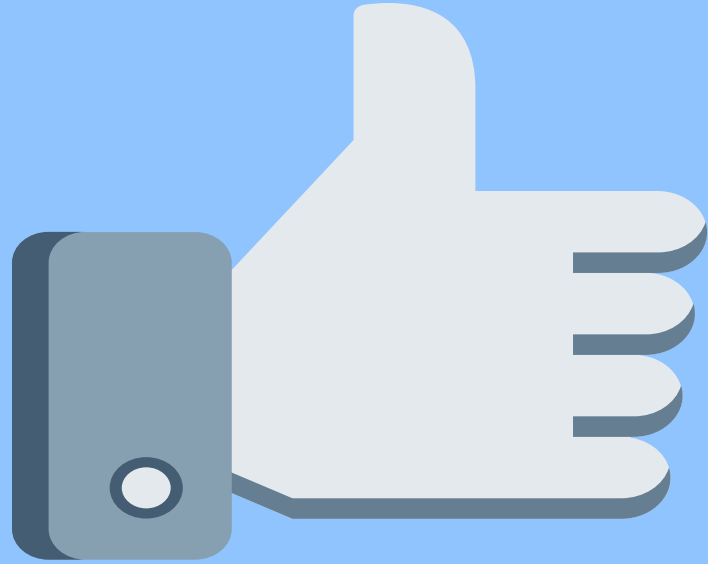
Jacket shouldn't be too long or too short.

TROUSERS

Make sure trousers (or skirt) are the appropriate length.

04

Acceptance



Decision Letters

- Some schools send a decision letter within days/2 weeks/1 month of interview
- If accepted, you usually have 2 weeks to reserve your spot
- You have to put down a security deposit (can range from \$0-\$1000)
 - Non-refundable
 - If you end up going to that school, it will be applied to your tuition
 - If you don't apply strategically, you could end up losing a lot of money
- Rolling Admission – if you are put on “active consideration,” then your application will be kept and reviewed against the next interview pool of applicants

Academic Update

- Update PharmCAS with your grades/classes for Fall Quarter
- Send your transcript to PharmCAS if you haven't been accepted already or to your pharmacy school if you have been accepted already
- You must complete your Academic Update by the deadline sometime in mid-February

Pharmacy School Checklist

- Background Check
- Immunization Update
- TB Test
- CPR Certification

Advice for Applying to Pharmacy Schools

- Get started as soon as possible!
 - Start your Letter of Recommendation Packet
 - Start your Personal Statement
 - Go to office hours and do well in your classes
 - Get a job or volunteer somewhere long-term
- Start and finish filling out your PharmCAS application during the Summer
- Do your research on pharmacy schools and pharmacy!
 - Come to PPS events! (Schools trips, mixers, Pre-Pharmacy Day at UCI, NorCal Trip, general meetings)
 - Read about pharmacy news
- Prepare for your interview!
 - Know why you want to go to each school
 - Try to visit the school and its surrounding areas
 - Prepare different scenarios that you can use to answer questions
 - Prepare questions for the end of the interview
 - Buy nice interview clothes and have your clothes tailored
- Be engaged with other applicants and pharmacy school students and faculty during interview day!
- Have fun, do your best, and be yourself!

Questions?