Pharmacy Residency Applications

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Postgraduate Preparation Series
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Important Deadlines

• **October 1\textsuperscript{st}** - PhORCAS site opens
• **November 1\textsuperscript{st}** – Registration opens for National Match Service (NMS)
• **November 19\textsuperscript{th}** – PhORCAS begins accepting applications
• **December – January** – Application Due Dates\(^*\)
• **March 6\textsuperscript{th}** – Final date for NMS registration
• **March 7\textsuperscript{th}** – Final date for submission of rank order lists
• **March 21\textsuperscript{st}** – Results of the Match are released to applicants and program directors

\(^*\)Specific application deadlines for individual programs vary
Major Components of Application

• Curriculum Vitae
• Cover Letter/Letter of Intent
• Transcripts
• Letters of recommendation
Start Networking
General Application Review

- Need to meet deadlines
- Ensure application is complete
- Written communication
  - Grammar matters, spelling matters
  - Letter of intent, curriculum vitae need to be organized
  - Clearly written and concise
Curriculum Vitae

• Work experience
  • Pharmacy or non-pharmacy
  • Hospital vs. community

• Advance Pharmacy Practice Experiences
  • Acute and ambulatory care experiences
  • Patient care based
  • Academic medical center

• Academic track record
  • Publications, abstracts, honors distinction, research experience, presentations

• Leadership experience
  • Organizations, awards
  • Be able to describe your role
  • Active member?
  • Offices held

• Other skills/talents
  • Extracurricular activity
    • Sports, musical talents

• Certifications/Licensure

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Letter of Intent

• Introductory paragraph
  • What position are you applying for?
  • Why are you interested?

• Body
  • What makes you the ideal candidate?
  • Describe achievements/accomplishments that support above

• Final paragraph
  • Reinforce interest
  • Thank reader for consideration
Letter of Intent Tips

• Tell a story (be memorable)
• Be concise
• Communicate what you are looking for in a program
  • ie: academic, community, diverse or unique specialties
• Demonstrate knowledge of program – be specific
• Avoid silly errors
  • e.g.: spelling, wrong program director name or title
• Ask an advisor or mentor to review
• Try to concisely express your short-term and long-term goals
Transcripts

• Make sure you can explain UC San Diego’s grading system
• Speak to how this system makes you a better candidate
• Highlight honors received in this system
Letters of Recommendation

• A good letter may or may not help you, but a bad letter will hurt you
• Know who you are asking
• Writer should know you well
• Letters should be diverse, demonstrate relationships built in the academic, work and clinical settings
• Ask your letter writers early
• Pharmacy is a small world
Potential PHORCAS Traps

Advantages
• One online submission
• Electronic tracking
• Ability to standardize content
• No more ancillary fees for copies, paper or mail???

Disadvantages
• One online submission
• Electronic tracking
• Ability to standardize content
• $$$
Next Steps

• Continue networking
• Formulate list of programs
• Start asking for letter writers
• Finalize CV
• Begin letter of intent
• Register for NMS and PhORCAS