Is Completing a Residency Really Worth Dealing with the Application Process?

Marcie Lepkowsky, PharmD, BCGP
Director, PGY1 Acute Care Pharmacy Residency Program

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“All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move.”

~Benjamin Franklin

“All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move.”

~Benjamin Franklin

Which class do YOU fall into?

So, Is Completing a Residency Really Worth Dealing with the Application Process?

YES!

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PhORCAS™
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service

National Matching Services Inc.

apply

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PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS **PhORCAS**

PhORCAS

https://portal.phorcas.org/

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DISCLAIMER

PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS PhORCAS **PhORCAS**

- Chaos or Control?
- Confusion or Improved Communication?

- Created by Liaison International
- Opens ~Wednesday, November 1st
- YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE

- Link to sign up for the Match (NMS)
- Link to ASHP Residency Directory

PhORCAS™
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service

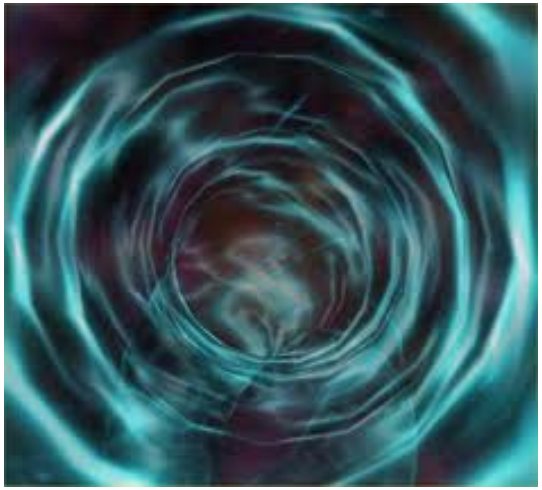
PhEES

- Fees*
  - $100/1- 4 (can qs to 4 at any time)
  - $40 each thereafter (ex: 10/$340; including Phase II)
  - Must pay for each program at an institution (for each with a unique NMS code)
  - Credit cards only

* Separate fee to register for the Match: $150

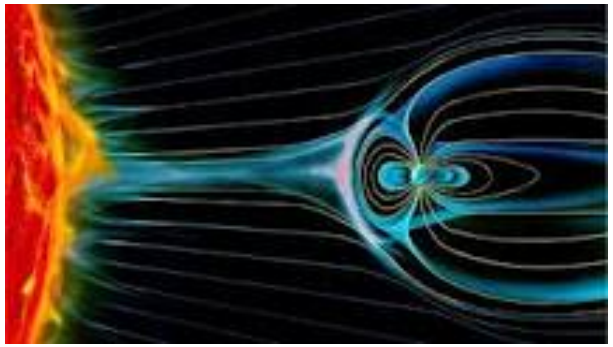
Three Portals

- Applicant



- Program
  (WebAdmit)

- References



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Applicant Portal www.ashp.org/phorcas

ashp Phorcas
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service

PhORCAS (Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service), a web-based tool that brings residency application material together in one location. By streamlining the residency recruitment process, it decreases the administrative burden that comes with paper applications

PhORCAS offers endless benefits for residency programs, resident applicants, and reference writers by simply making the process easier. For support, contact PhORCAS at (617) 612-2868 from 9am-5pm EST or email them at phorcasinfo@phorcas.org.

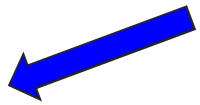
WebADMIT, the selection portal for PhORCAS is an amazing tool integrated into the system to make the process of sorting out resident information by residency program directors and preceptors much more efficient and labor intensive than in the past! If you need assistance with WebAdMIT, please contact WebAdMIT at (717) 636-7777 or email them at Webadmitsupport@liaison-intl.com.

Learn more about how PhORCAS can save you time, effort, and money in the Resource Information below.

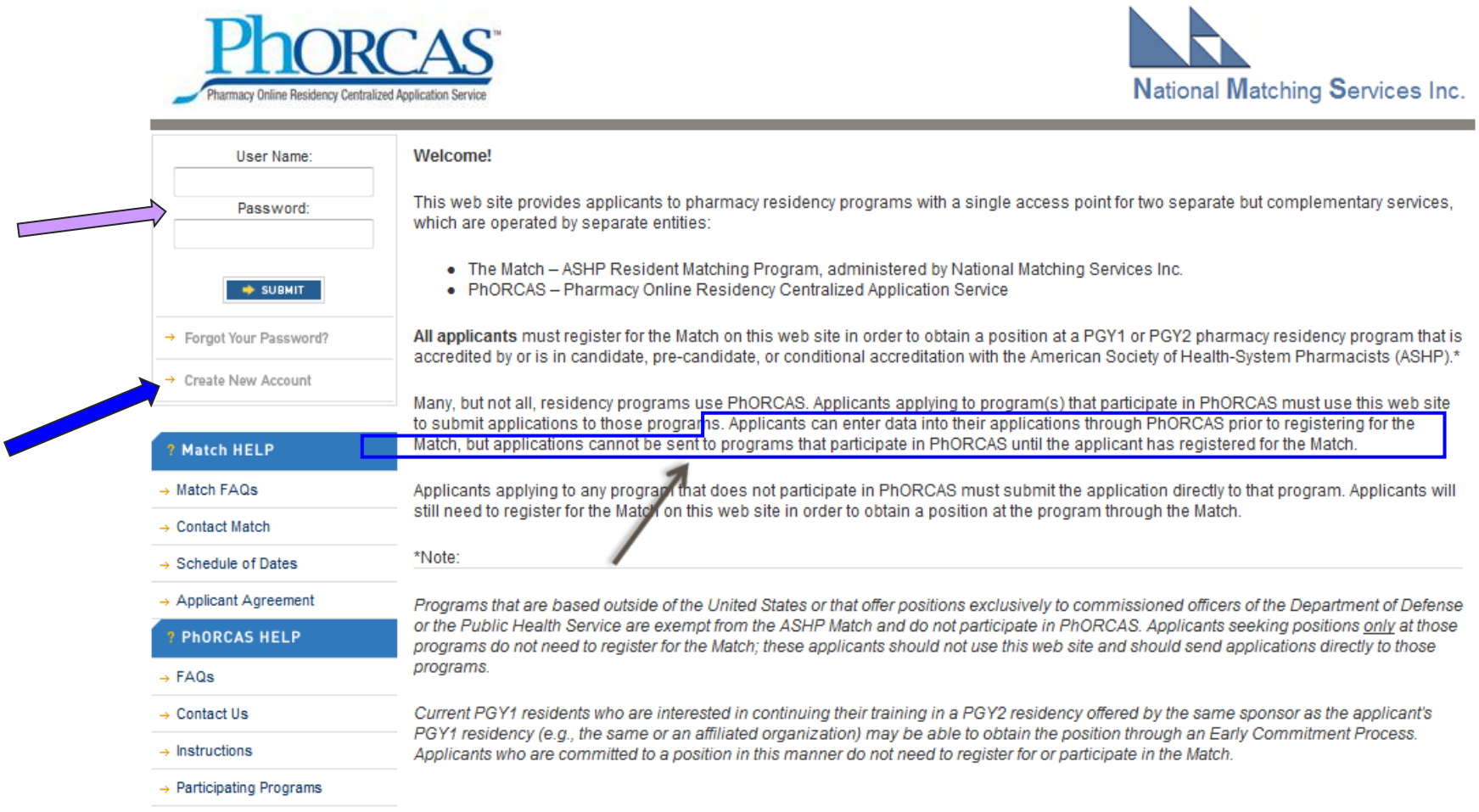
Resource Information

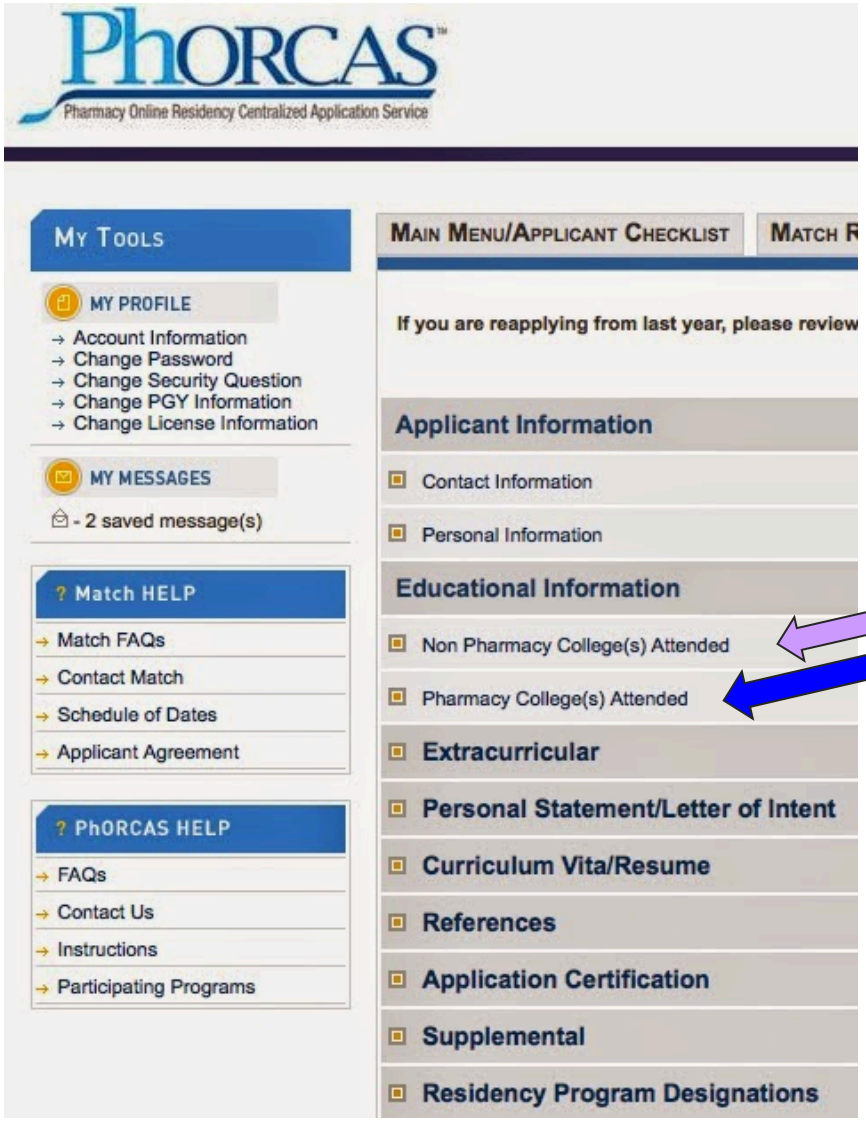
Applicant Resources

› PhORCAS Applicant Login



Login

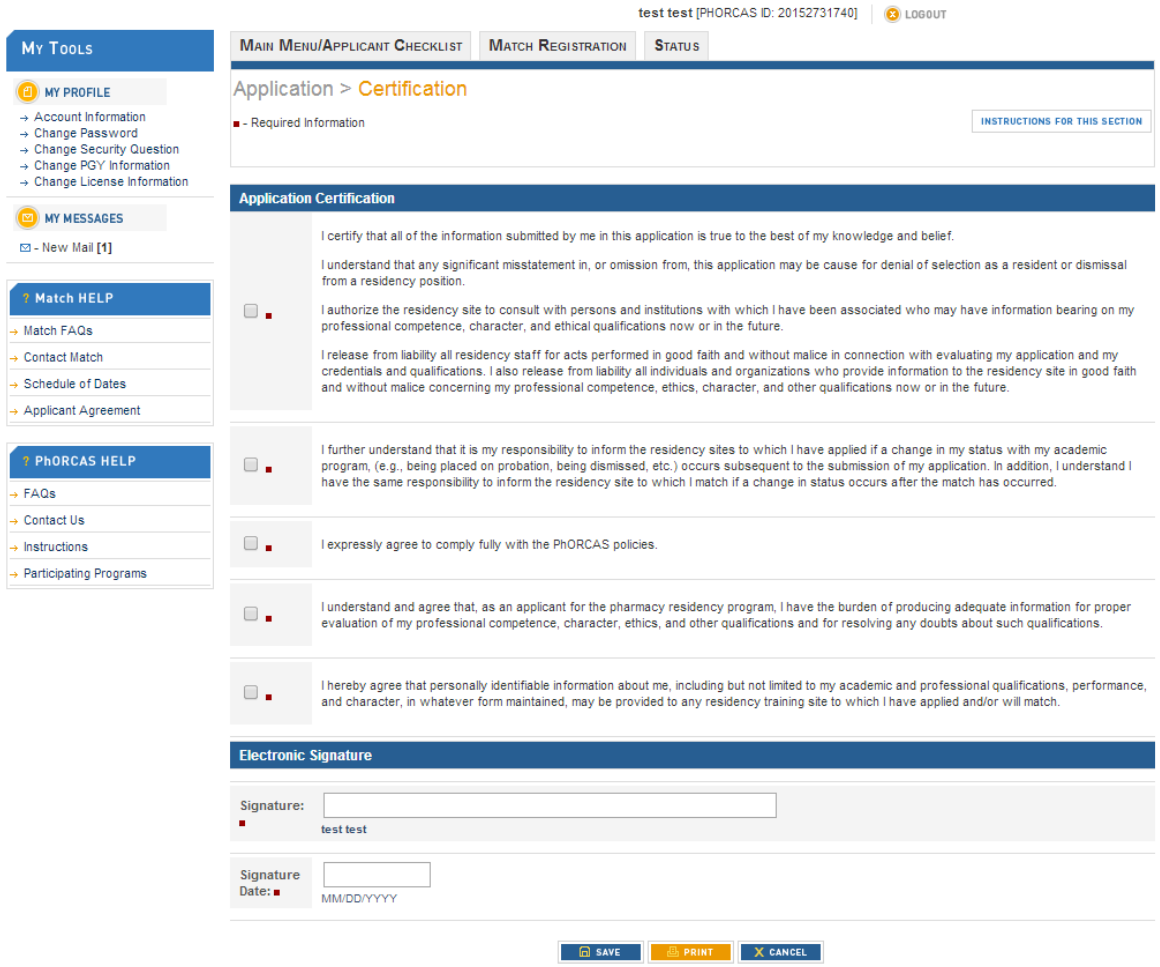

PhORCAS
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service
National Matching Services Inc.
User Name:
Password:
SUBMIT
Forgot Your Password?
Create New Account
? Match HELP
Match FAQs
Contact Match
Schedule of Dates
Applicant Agreement
? PhORCAS HELP
FAQs
Contact Us
Instructions
Participating Programs
Welcome!
This web site provides applicants to pharmacy residency programs with a single access point for two separate but complementary services, which are operated by separate entities:
The Match – ASHP Resident Matching Program, administered by National Matching Services Inc.
PhORCAS – Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service
All applicants must register for the Match on this web site in order to obtain a position at a PGY1 or PGY2 pharmacy residency program that is accredited by or is in candidate, pre-candidate, or conditional accreditation with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).*
Many, but not all, residency programs use PhORCAS. Applicants applying to program(s) that participate in PhORCAS must use this web site to submit applications to those programs. Applicants can enter data into their applications through PhORCAS prior to registering for the Match, but applications cannot be sent to programs that participate in PhORCAS until the applicant has registered for the Match.
Applicants applying to any program that does not participate in PhORCAS must submit the application directly to that program. Applicants will still need to register for the Match on this web site in order to obtain a position at the program through the Match.
*Note:
Programs that are based outside of the United States or that offer positions exclusively to commissioned officers of the Department of Defense or the Public Health Service are exempt from the ASHP Match and do not participate in PhORCAS. Applicants seeking positions only at those programs do not need to register for the Match; these applicants should not use this web site and should send applications directly to those programs.
Current PGY1 residents who are interested in continuing their training in a PGY2 residency offered by the same sponsor as the applicant's PGY1 residency (e.g., the same or an affiliated organization) may be able to obtain the position through an Early Commitment Process. Applicants who are committed to a position in this manner do not need to register for or participate in the Match.


PhORCAS
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service
My Tools
MY PROFILE
Account Information
Change Password
Change Security Question
Change PGY Information
Change License Information
MY MESSAGES
- 2 saved message(s)
? Match HELP
Match FAQs
Contact Match
Schedule of Dates
Applicant Agreement
? PhORCAS HELP
FAQs
Contact Us
Instructions
Participating Programs
Main Menu/Applicant Checklist
Match R
If you are reapplying from last year, please review
Applicant Information
Contact Information
Personal Information
Educational Information
Non Pharmacy College(s) Attended
Pharmacy College(s) Attended
Extracurricular
Personal Statement/Letter of Intent
Curriculum Vita/Resume
References
Application Certification
Supplemental
Residency Program Designations
Optional
Required

Transcripts

- Request one official copy to be mailed to PhORCAS Transcripts department
- PhORCAS certifies authenticity
- Uploaded into application portal
- One time fee
- Only pharmacy school transcripts required
- See individual program for additional requirements
- Non-accredited programs: don't participate in PhORCAS; need separate transcripts

Electronic Signature Creates Legal Document



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Application sections and checklist

PhORCAS™
Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service

National Matching Services Inc.

Marcie Harvey [PHORCAS ID: 20132723115] | LOGOUT

My Tools

MY PROFILE
- Account Information
- Change Password
- Change Security Question
- Change PGY Information
- Change License Information

MY MESSAGES
- 1 saved message(s)

? Match HELP
- Match FAQs
- Contact Match
- Schedule of Dates
- Applicant Agreement

? PhORCAS HELP
- FAQs
- Contact Us
- Instructions
- Participating Programs

Main Menu/Applicant Checklist | **Match Registration** | **Status**

☐ - Incomplete ☑ - Complete ▪ - Required

Applicant Information
- ☑ Contact Information ▪
- ☐ Personal Information ▪

Educational Information
- ☐ Non Pharmacy College(s) Attended
- ☑ Pharmacy College(s) Attended ▪
- ☐ **Extracurricular** ▪
- ☐ **Personal Statement/Letter of Intent** ▪
- ☐ **Curriculum Vita/Resume** ▪
- ☐ **References** ▪
- ☐ **Application Certification** ▪
- ☐ **Supplemental**
- ☐ **Residency Program Designations** ▪

E-SUBMIT

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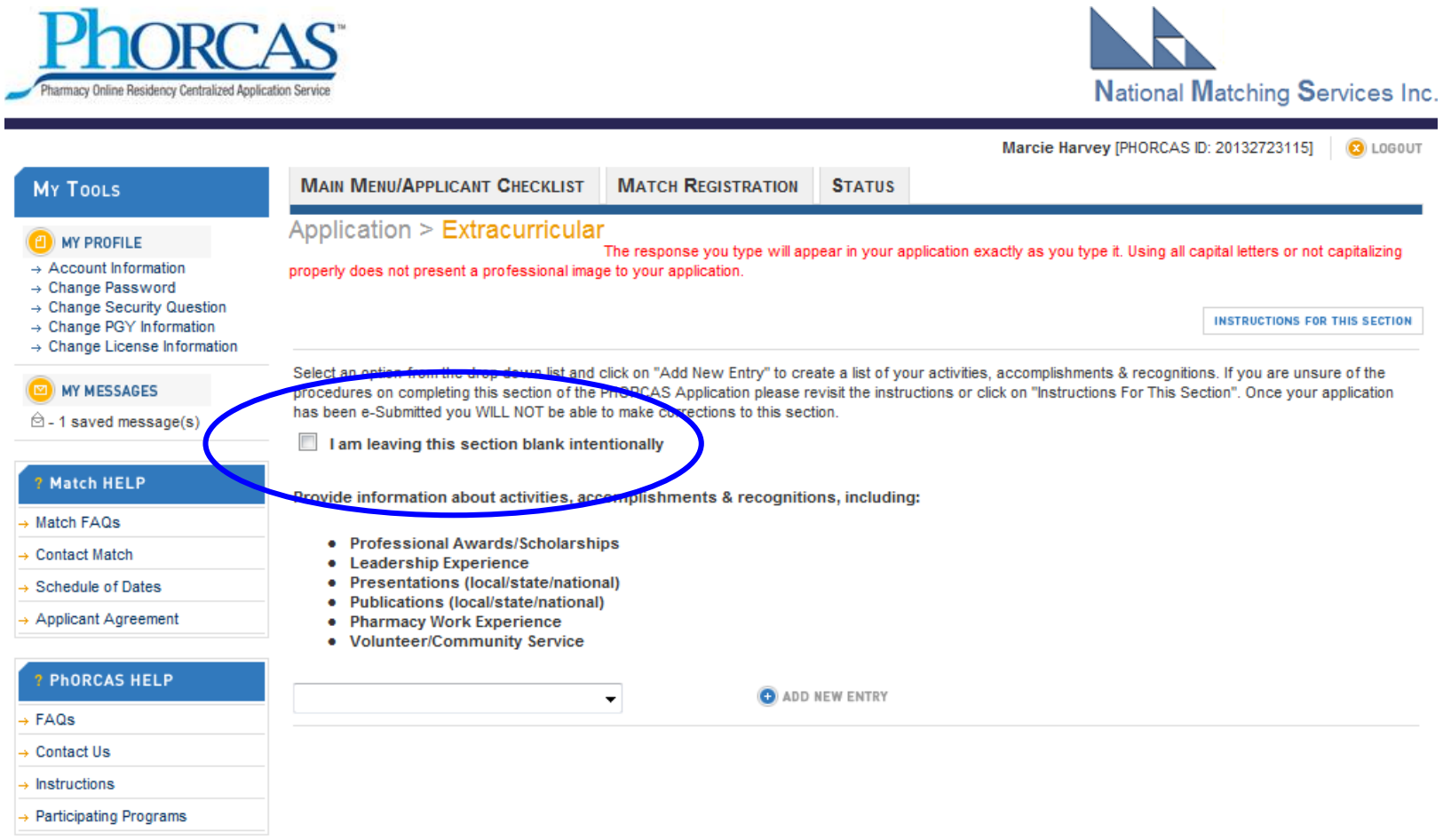
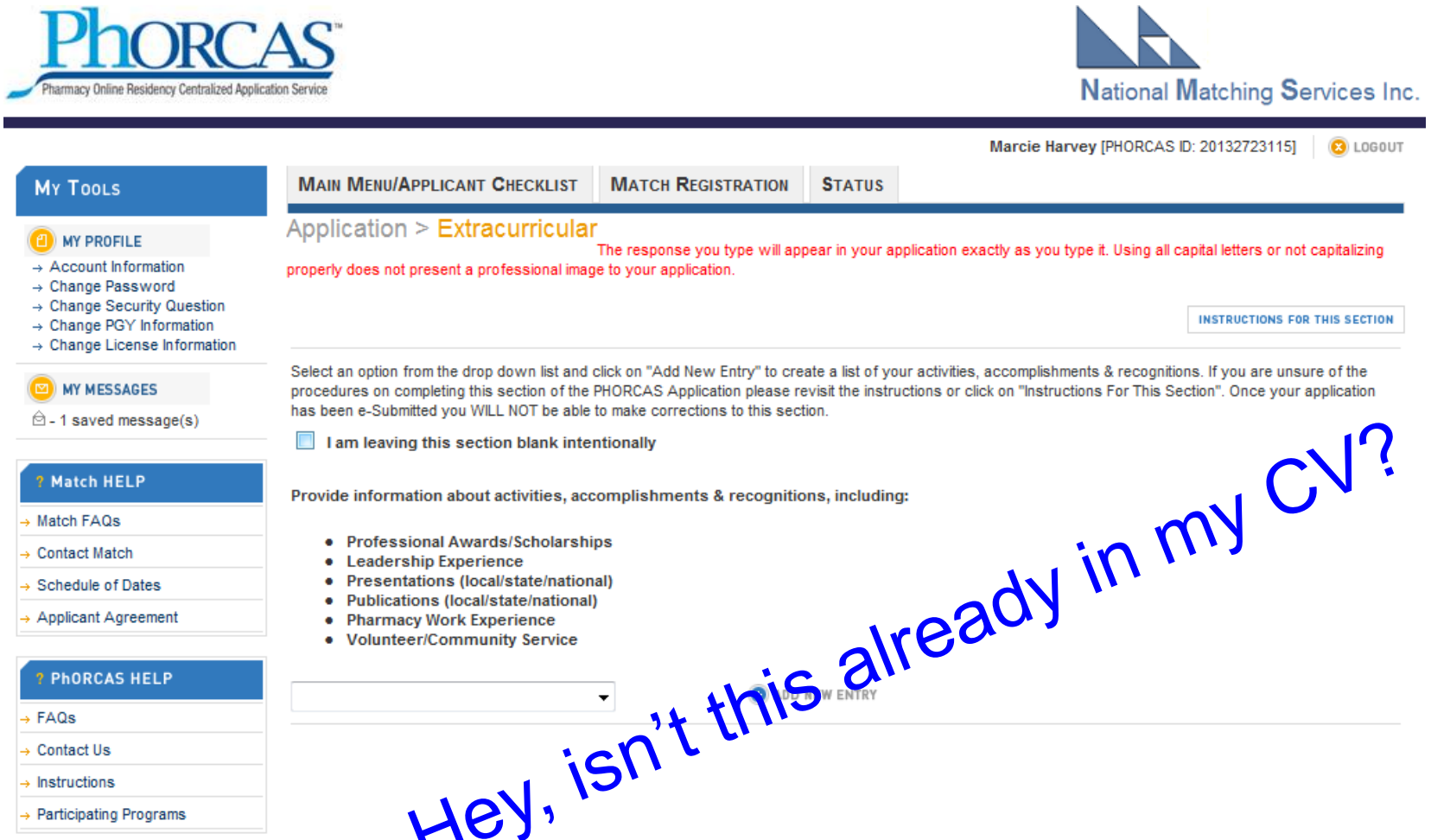
Extracurricular activities



Extracurricular activities



Hey, isn't this already in my CV?

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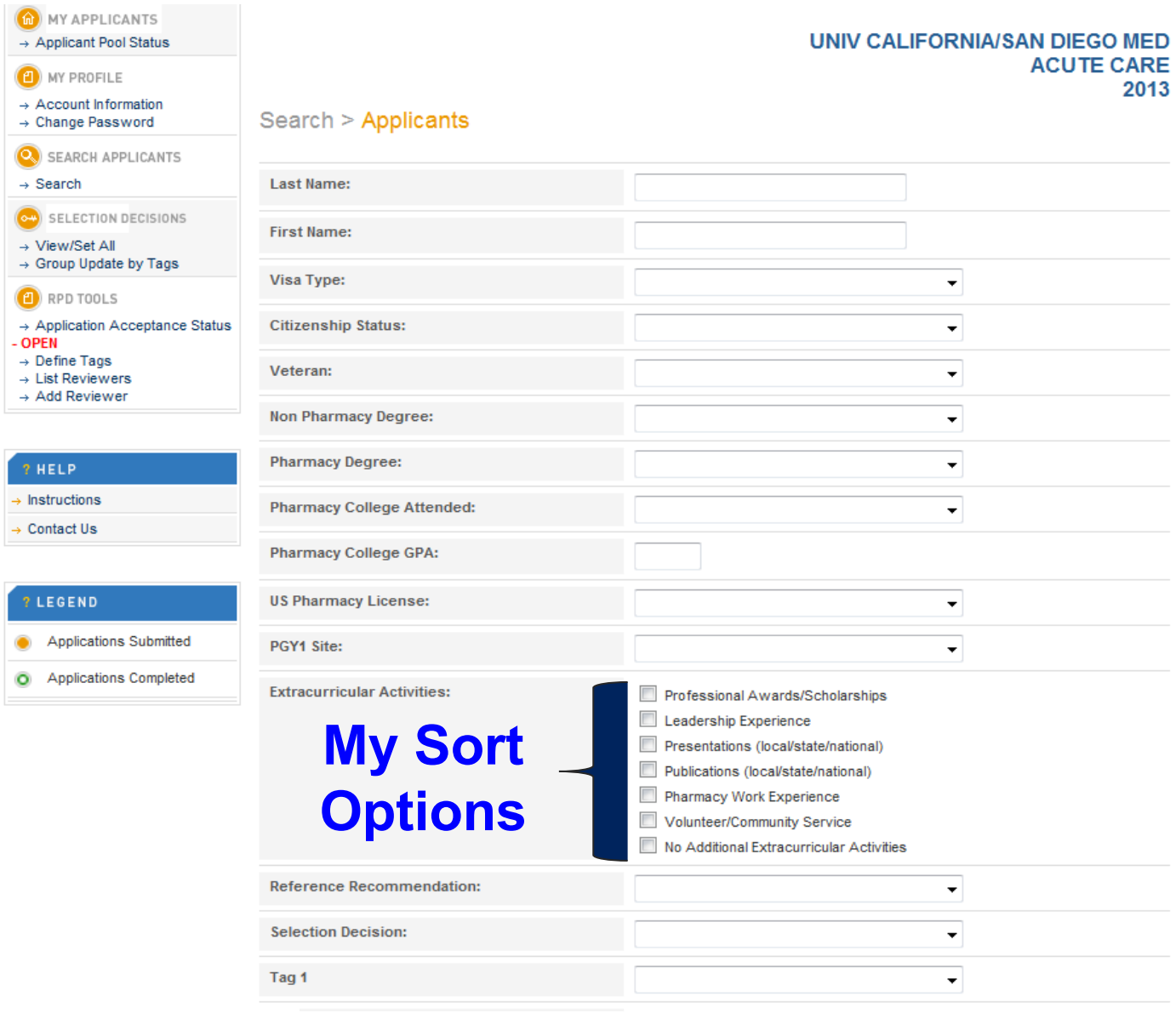
“CVs are just not that important to me anymore. The PhORCAS system has all the typically recommended cv information covered by a series of fill-in questions that are placed into a searchable database…The filtering renders the cv superfluous to me.”*

*ref: current unnamed PGY1 Residency Program Director



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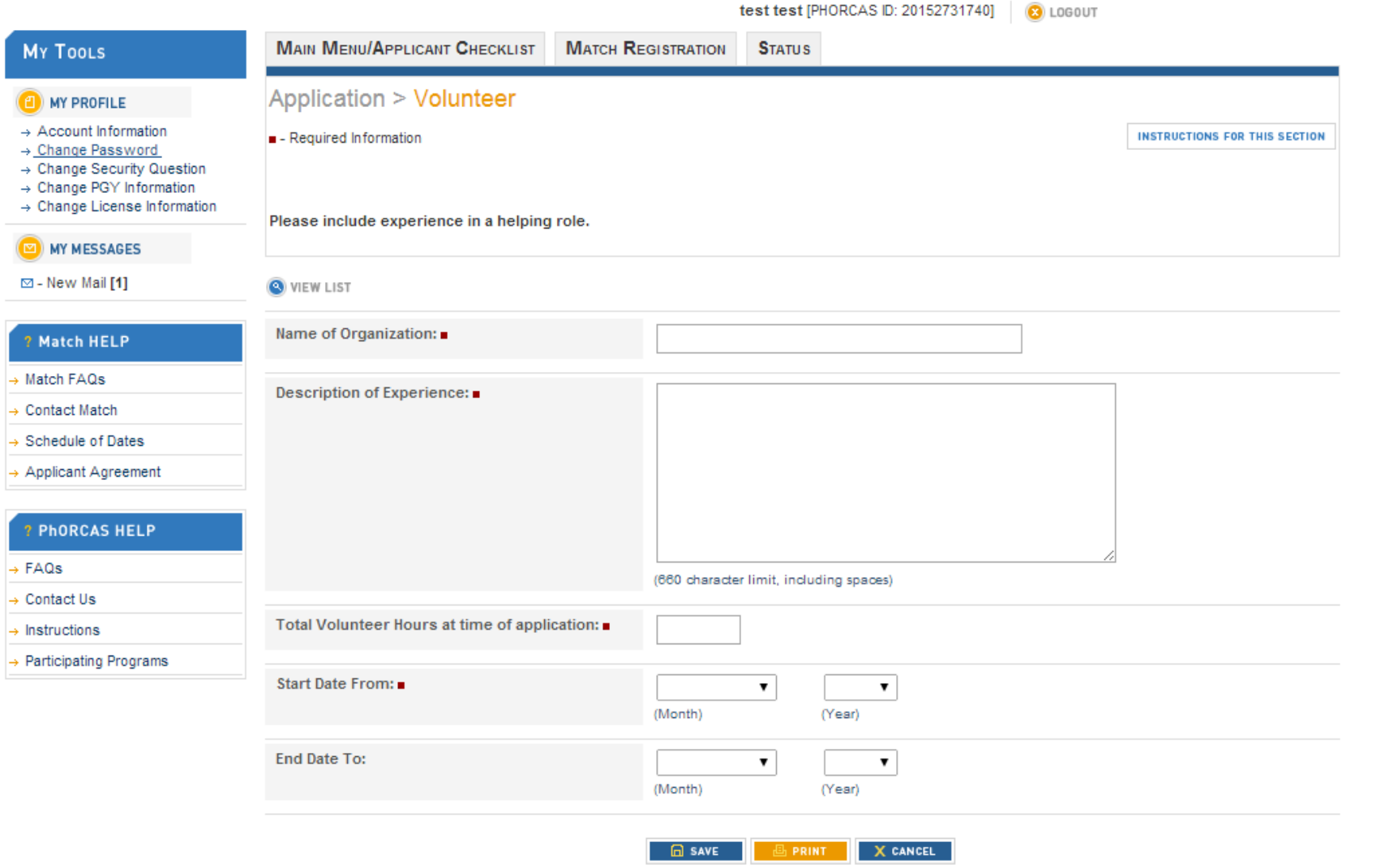
Extracurricular Activities

- Your role: did you lead or just show up?
- What did you learn from this experience?
- Consider key words found in program description
- Opportunity to expand on CV and Letter of Intent



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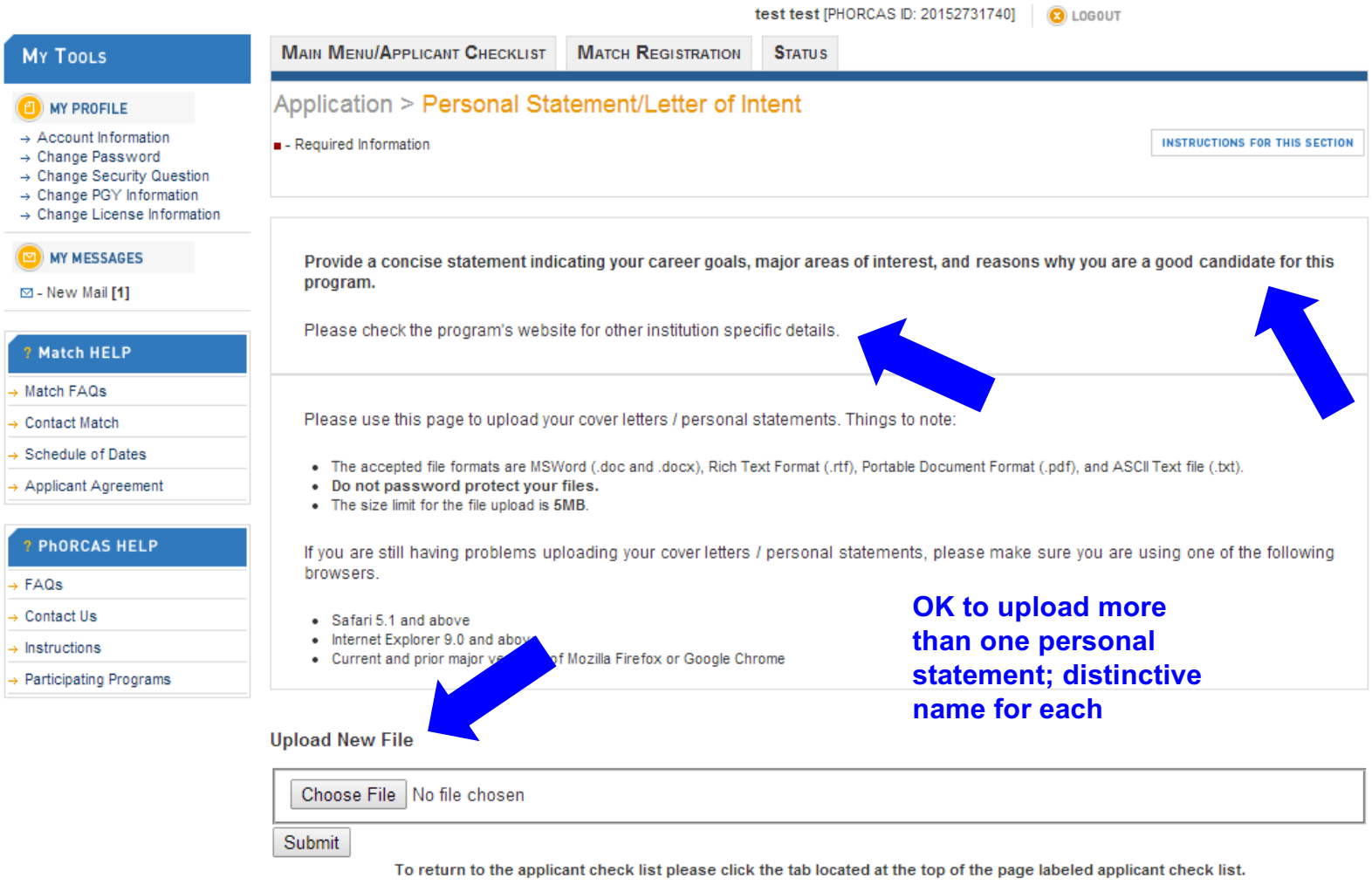
Personal Statement



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Personal statement/letter of intent

- ✓Can be customized
- ✓Check program website for additional instructions
  - Word limit
  - prompts
- ✓Save each document with unique name for easy identification when uploading

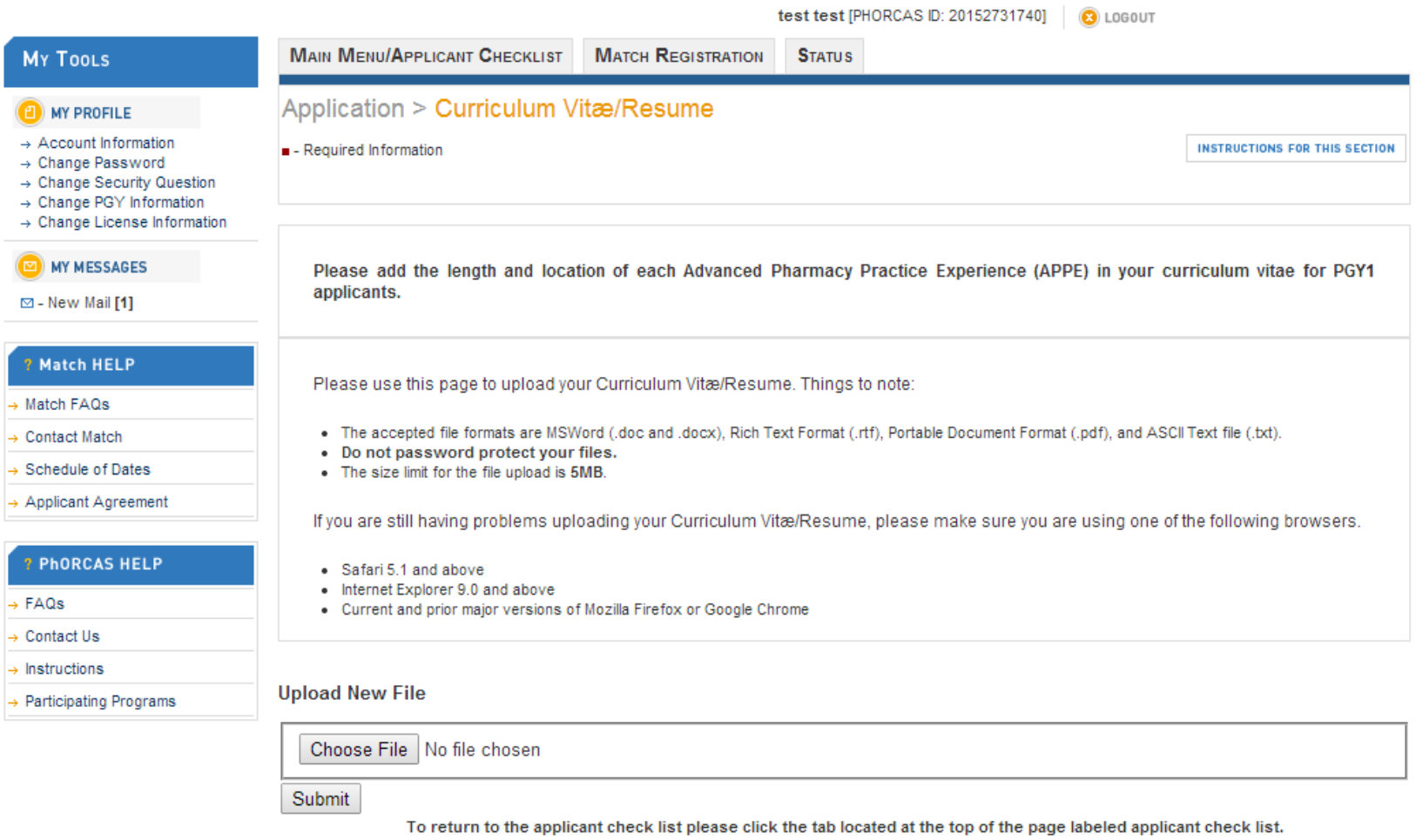
Personal statement/letter of intent - Content

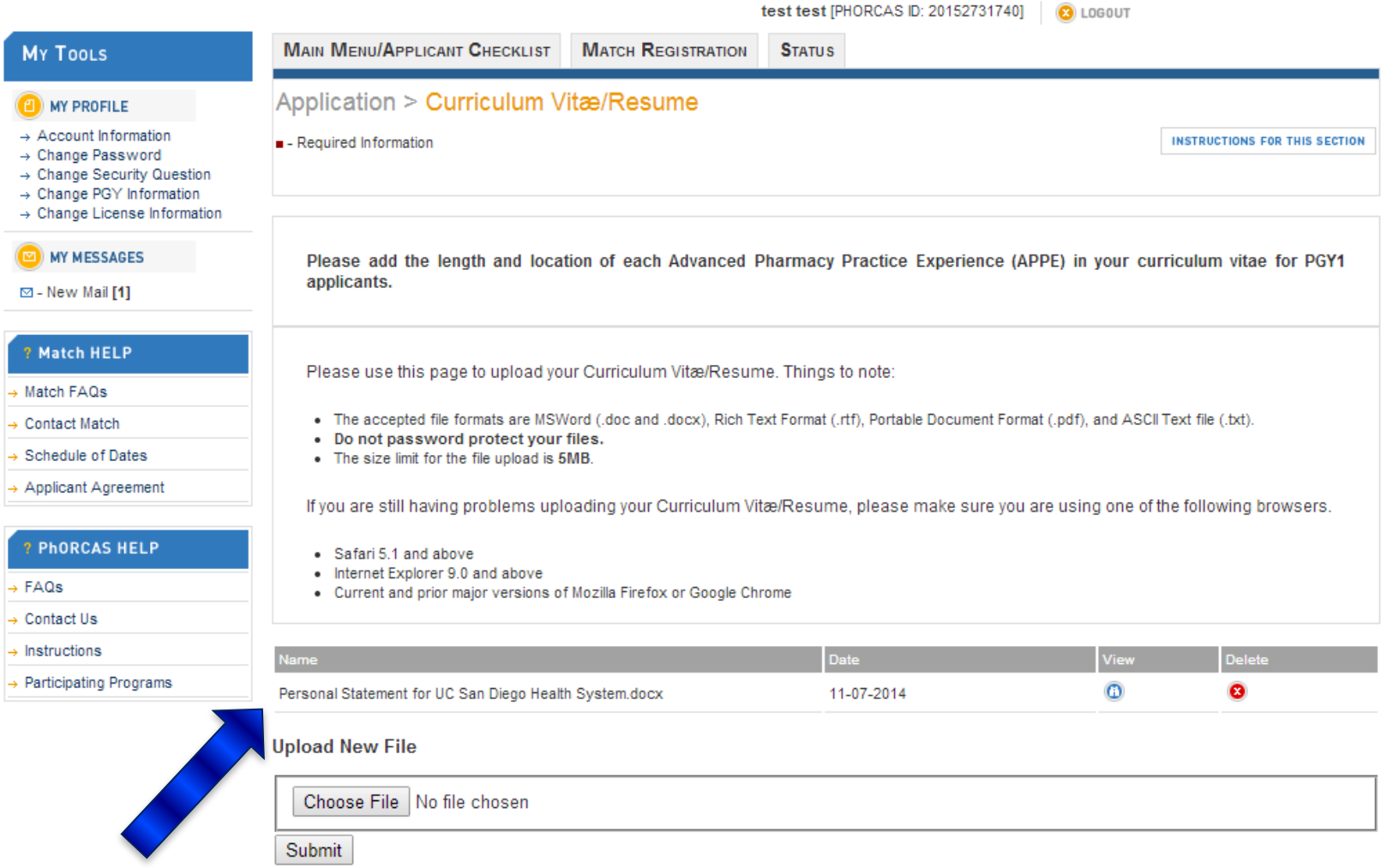
- Introductory paragraph
  - Catchy opening
  - What position are you applying for?
  - Why are you interested?
- Body
  - What makes you the ideal candidate?
  - Describe achievements/accomplishments that support above
- Final paragraph
  - Reinforce interest
  - Thank reader for consideration

Personal statement/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

Curriculum Vitae





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test test [PHORCAS ID: 20152731740] | LOGOUT

My Tools

MY PROFILE
- Account Information
- Change Password
- Change Security Question
- Change PGY Information
- Change License Information

MY MESSAGES
- New Mail [1]

? Match HELP
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MAIN MENU/APPLICANT CHECKLIST | MATCH REGISTRATION | STATUS

Application > Curriculum Vitæ/Resume

■ - Required Information

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS SECTION

Please add the length and location of each Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) in your curriculum vitae for PGY1 applicants.

Please use this page to upload your Curriculum Vitæ/Resume. Things to note:

- The accepted file formats are MSWord (.doc and .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), and ASCII Text file (.txt).
- **Do not password protect your files.**
- The size limit for the file upload is **5MB**.

If you are still having problems uploading your Curriculum Vitæ/Resume, please make sure you are using one of the following browsers.

- Safari 5.1 and above
- Internet Explorer 9.0 and above
- Current and prior major versions of Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome

Name	Date	View	Delete
Personal Statement for UC San Diego Health System.docx	11-07-2014		
Marcie Lepkowsky CV.doc	11-07-2014		

Upload New File

Choose File | No file chosen

Submit

To return to the applicant check list please click the tab located at the top of the page labeled applicant check list.

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Curriculum Vitae

- Education
- 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
  - Research
  - Abstracts, Publications
  - honors
- Teaching experience
- Leadership experience
  - Organizations, awards
  - Be able to describe your role
  - Active member?
  - Offices held
  - Other skills/talents
- Extracurricular activity
  - Volunteer activities, sports, musical talents
- Certifications/Licensure

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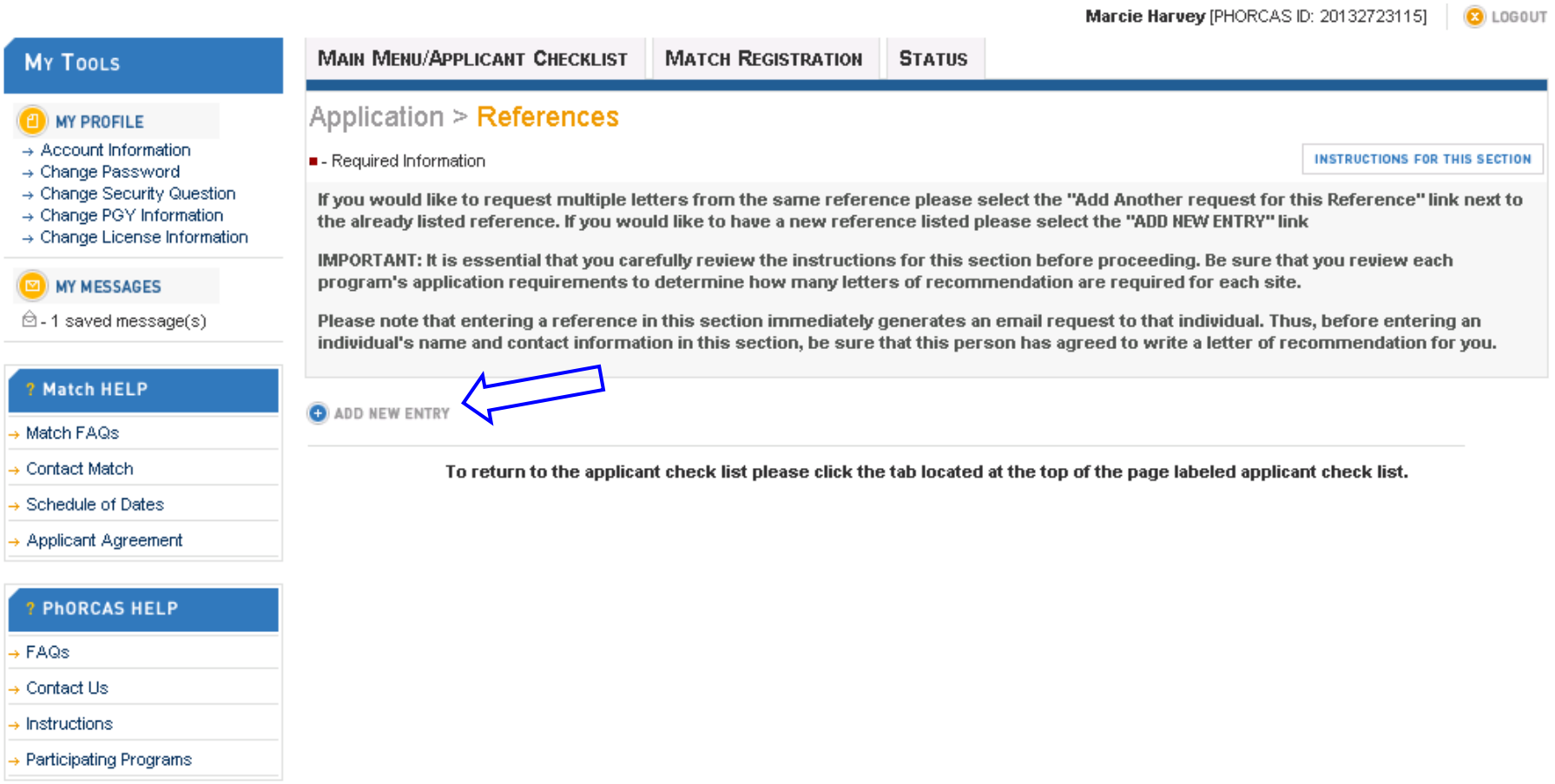
CV Bests

- ✓ Aesthetically pleasing
- ✓ Ordered in order of importance
- ✓ Include NMS Match #
- ✓ Reviewed by at least 2 people
- ✓ (in addition to your mom!)
- ✓ Can customize for different programs

CV No's

- ✓No spelling/grammatical errors
- ✓No fluff but be complete
- ✓No lying
- ✓"Know" your CV

References


Marcie Harvey [PHORCAS ID: 20132723115]
LOGOUT
MY TOOLS
MY PROFILE
Account Information
Change Password
Change Security Question
Change PGY Information
Change License Information
MY MESSAGES
- 1 saved message(s)
? Match HELP
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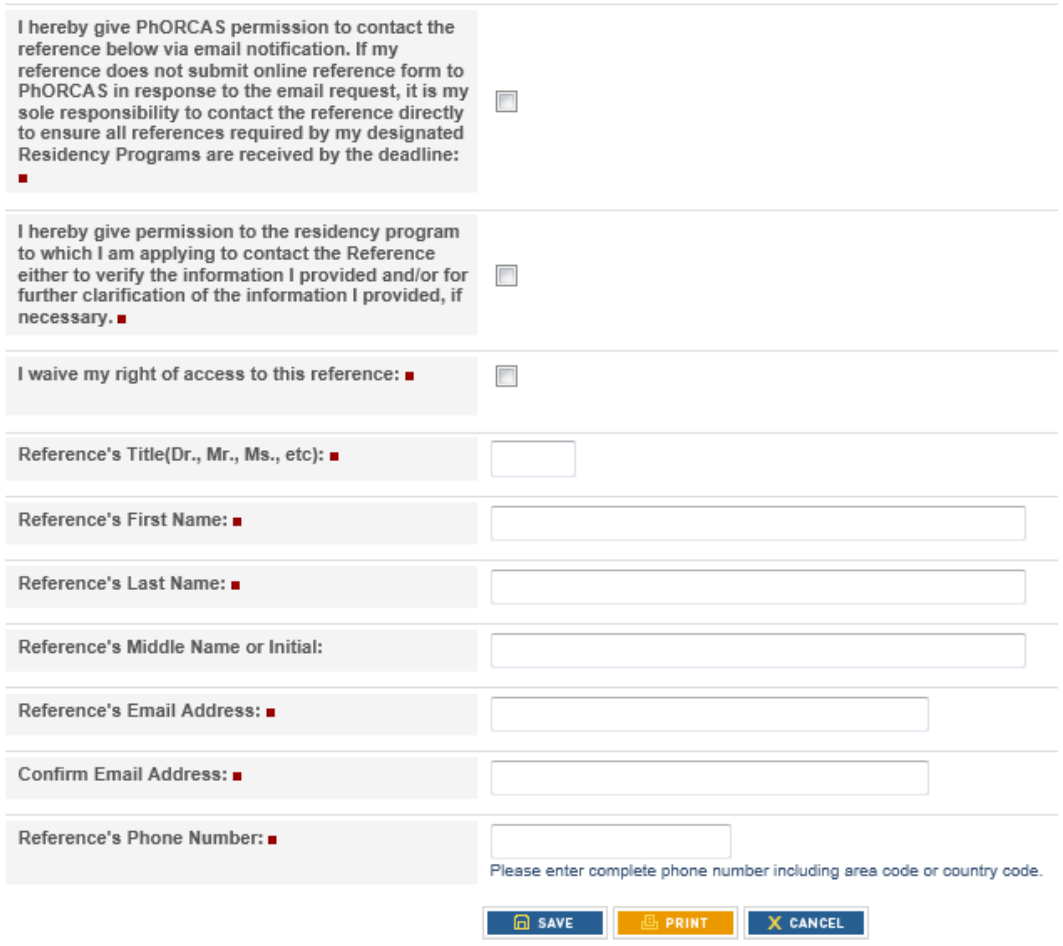
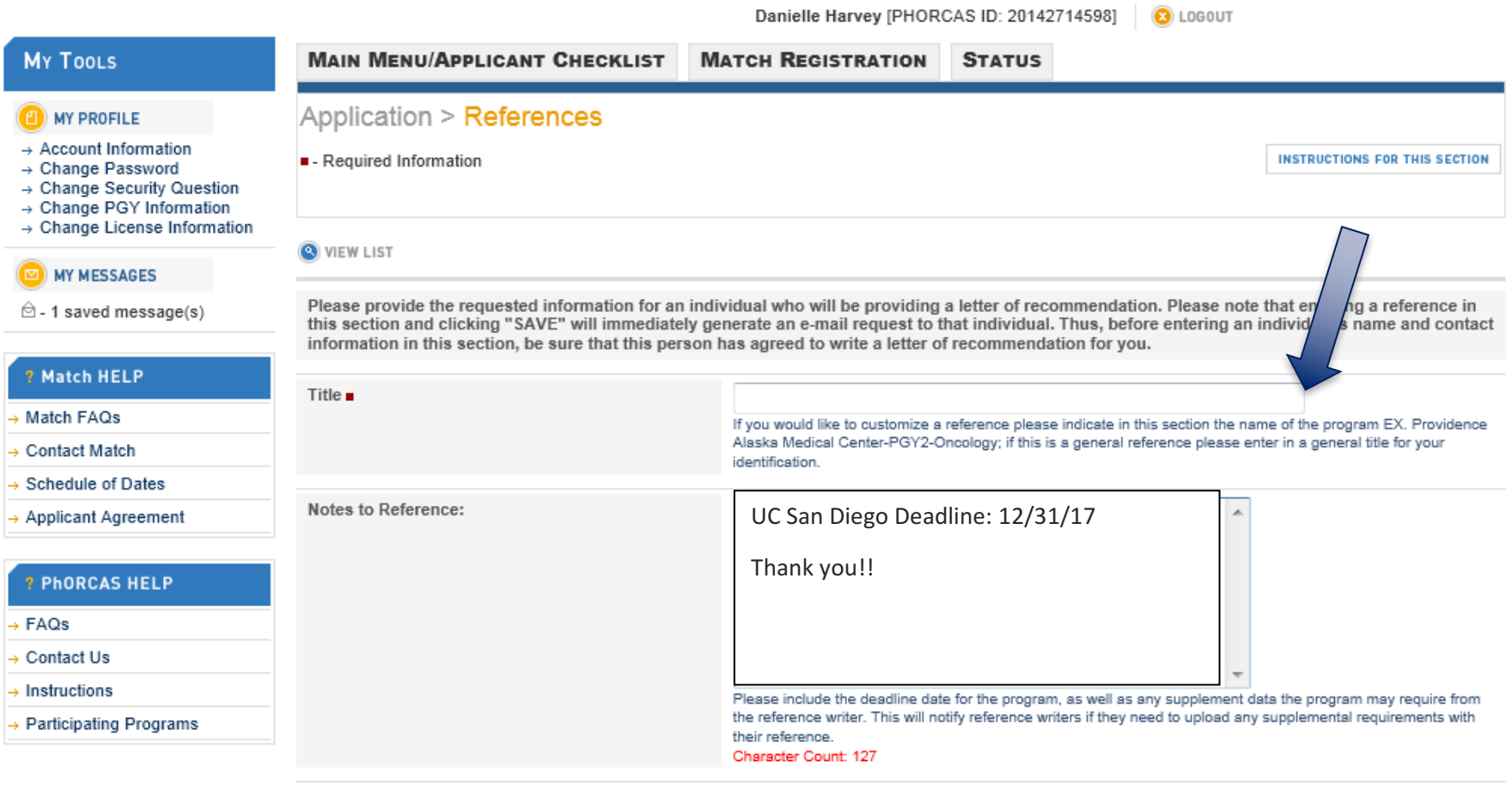
? PhORCAS HELP
FAQs
Contact Us
Instructions
Participating Programs
MAIN MENU/APPLICANT CHECKLIST
MATCH REGISTRATION
STATUS
Application > References
- Required Information
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS SECTION
If you would like to request multiple letters from the same reference please select the "Add Another request for this Reference" link next to the already listed reference. If you would like to have a new reference listed please select the "ADD NEW ENTRY" link
IMPORTANT: It is essential that you carefully review the instructions for this section before proceeding. Be sure that you review each program's application requirements to determine how many letters of recommendation are required for each site.
Please note that entering a reference in this section immediately generates an email request to that individual. Thus, before entering an individual's name and contact information in this section, be sure that this person has agreed to write a letter of recommendation for you.
ADD NEW ENTRY
To return to the applicant check list please click the tab located at the top of the page labeled applicant check list.

Reference Identification and Waiver



Add Reference



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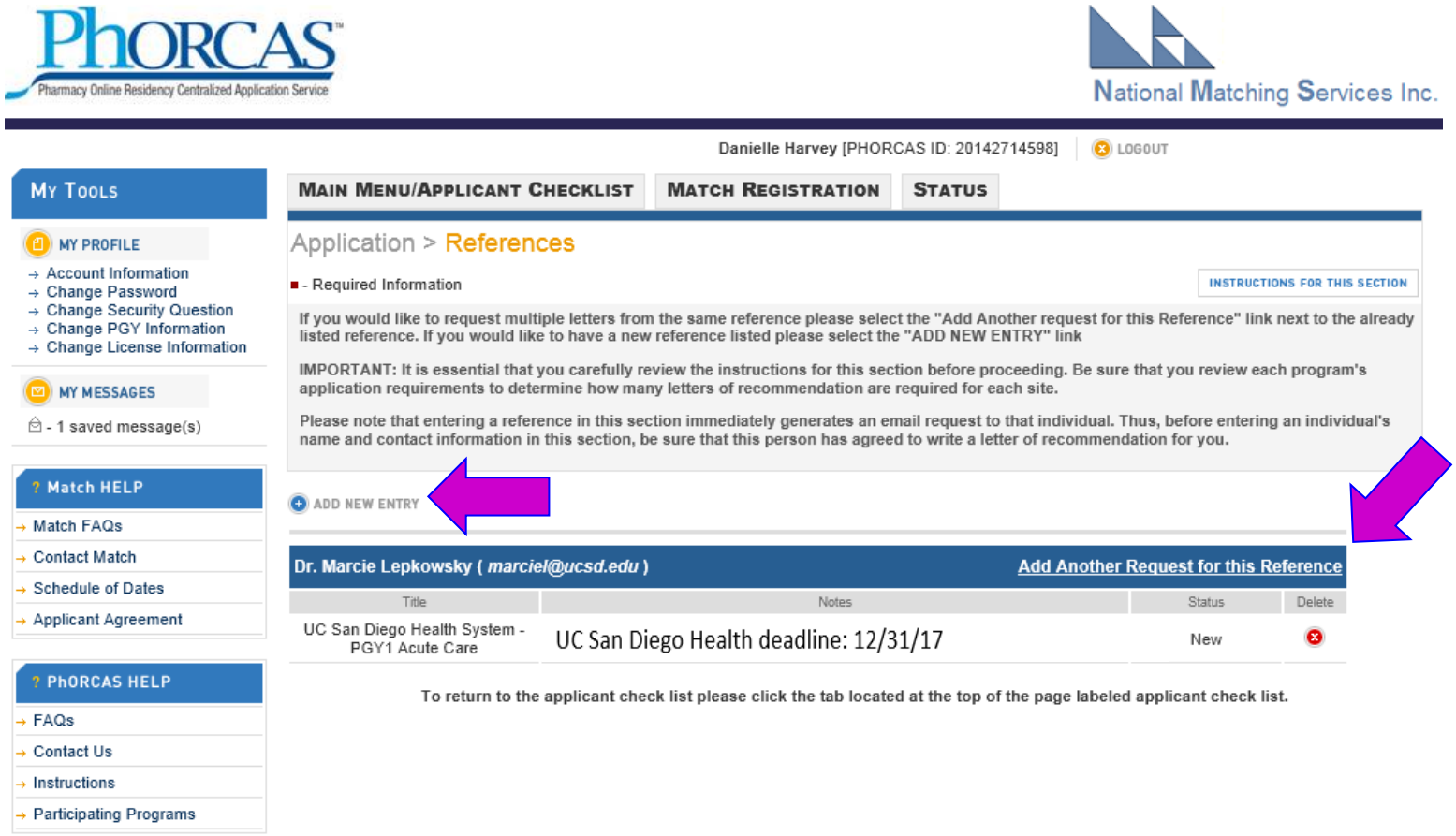
Add Additional References/
Add Additional Request for same Reference



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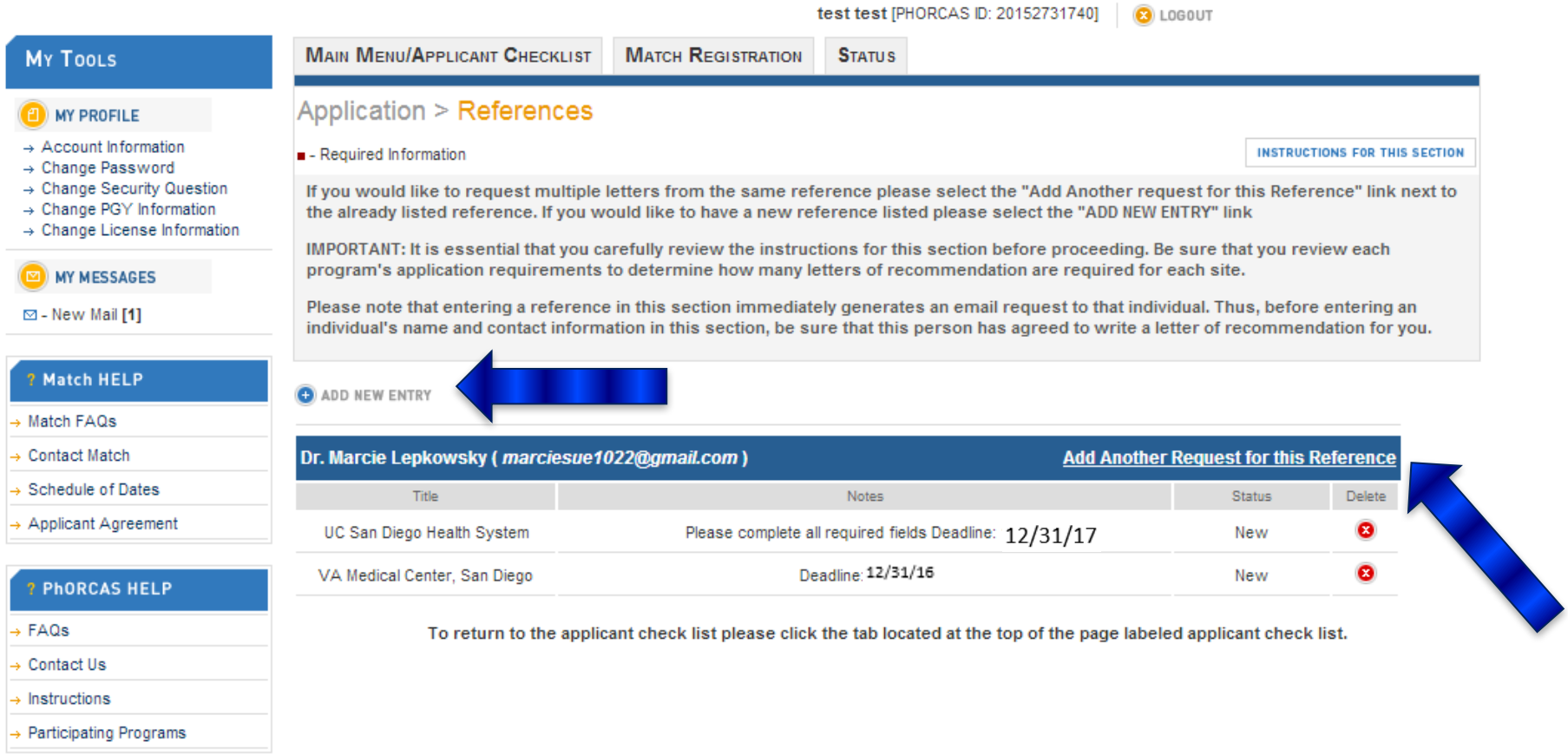
Multiple references/multiple sites



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Reference Writers

- Receive their own sign on code to reference portal
- Complete a standardized form
- Have room to elaborate with comments
- Separate letters of Reference
  - Discouraged by PhORCAS
  - When requested, usually a general letter
  - May agree to write customized letters/comments

What Reference Writers Write

- Relationship (faculty, preceptor, employer, professional organization…)
- How long they have known you
- Hours/week they worked with you during this time
- Scale rating
  - Exceed what is expected to enter a residency
  - Appropriate for what is expected
  - Fail to meet expectations
- **Scale subjects**
  - **Oral and written communication skills**
  - **Clinical problem solving skills**
  - **Leadership/mentoring skills**
  - **Assertiveness**
  - **Organization and time management skills**
  - **Ability to work with peers**
  - **Effective patient interaction skills**
- Strengths and areas that need improvement: free text

References – how you can help

- Summarize key **attributes/qualities** you would like the letter writer to emphasize
- Awards, leadership positions, research etc
- Provide examples for scaled subjects
- Summarize the programs you are applying to
  - What attracts you to these programs
  - Why you are a good fit
- Example of your strong work

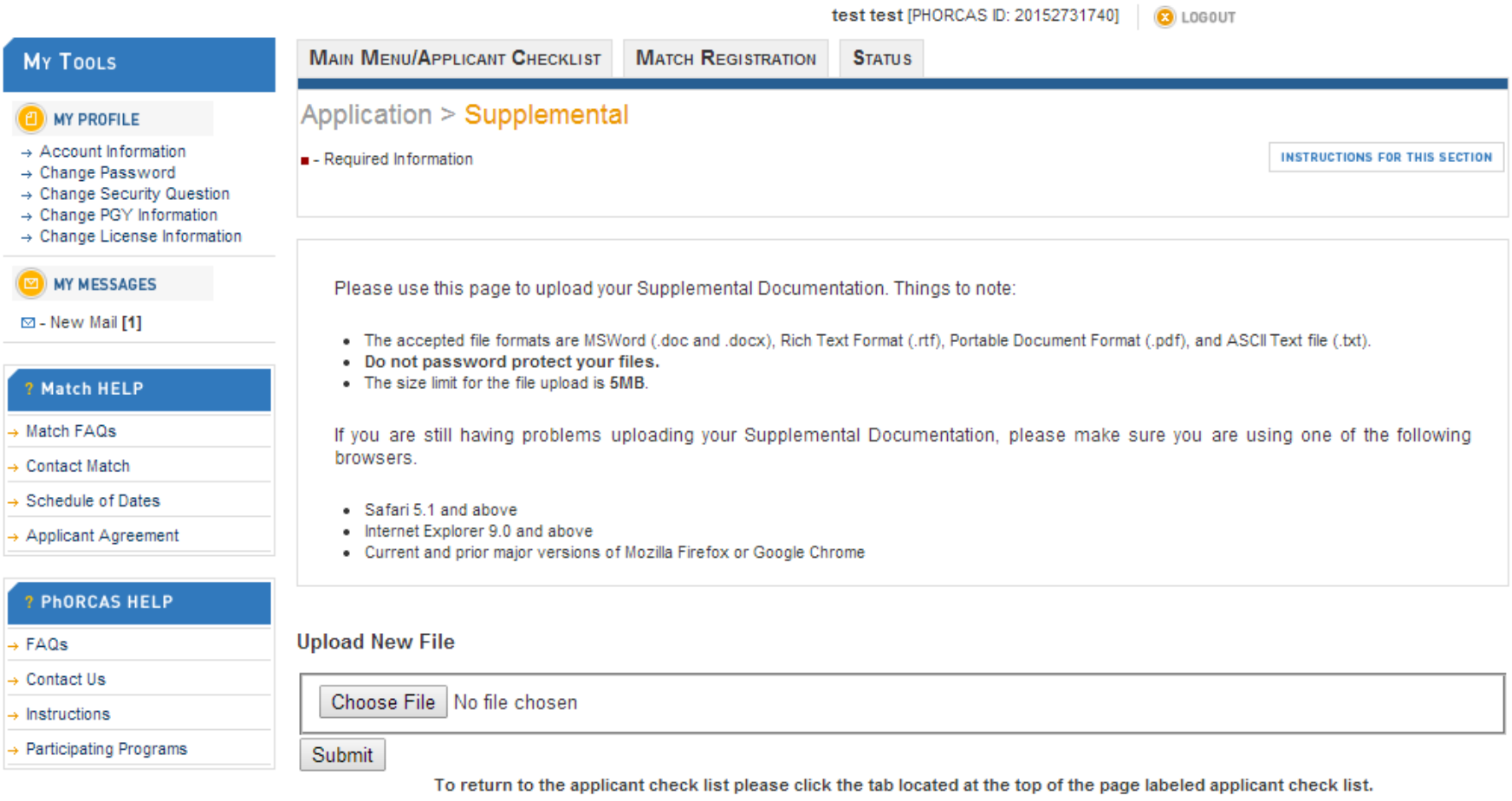
Reference reminders

- ✓ 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 may demonstrate relationships built in the academic, work and clinical settings but should meet the requirements of each program
- ✓ Ask your letter writers early
- ✓ Provide deadlines for each program
- ✓ Pharmacy is a small world

Reference reminders

- ✓ How many references: 3 or 4?
- ✓ Different references for different programs?
- ✓ No uploading/copy and paste of full letter
- ✓ Look for supplemental requirements from each program
- ✓ Let your references know about the Match Phase II and possible scramble
- ✓ Let your references know where you match
- ✓ Thank your references

Supplemental



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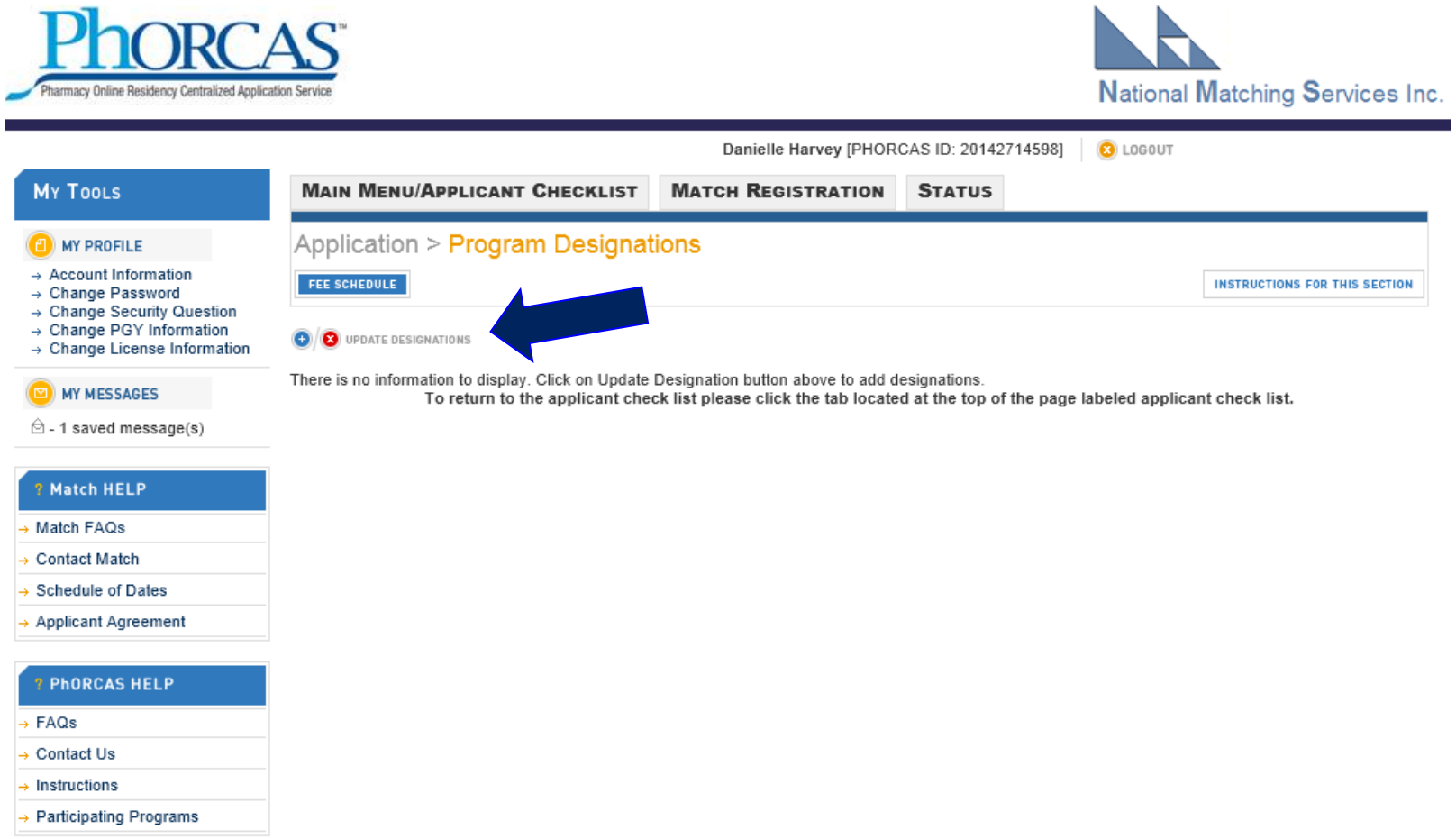
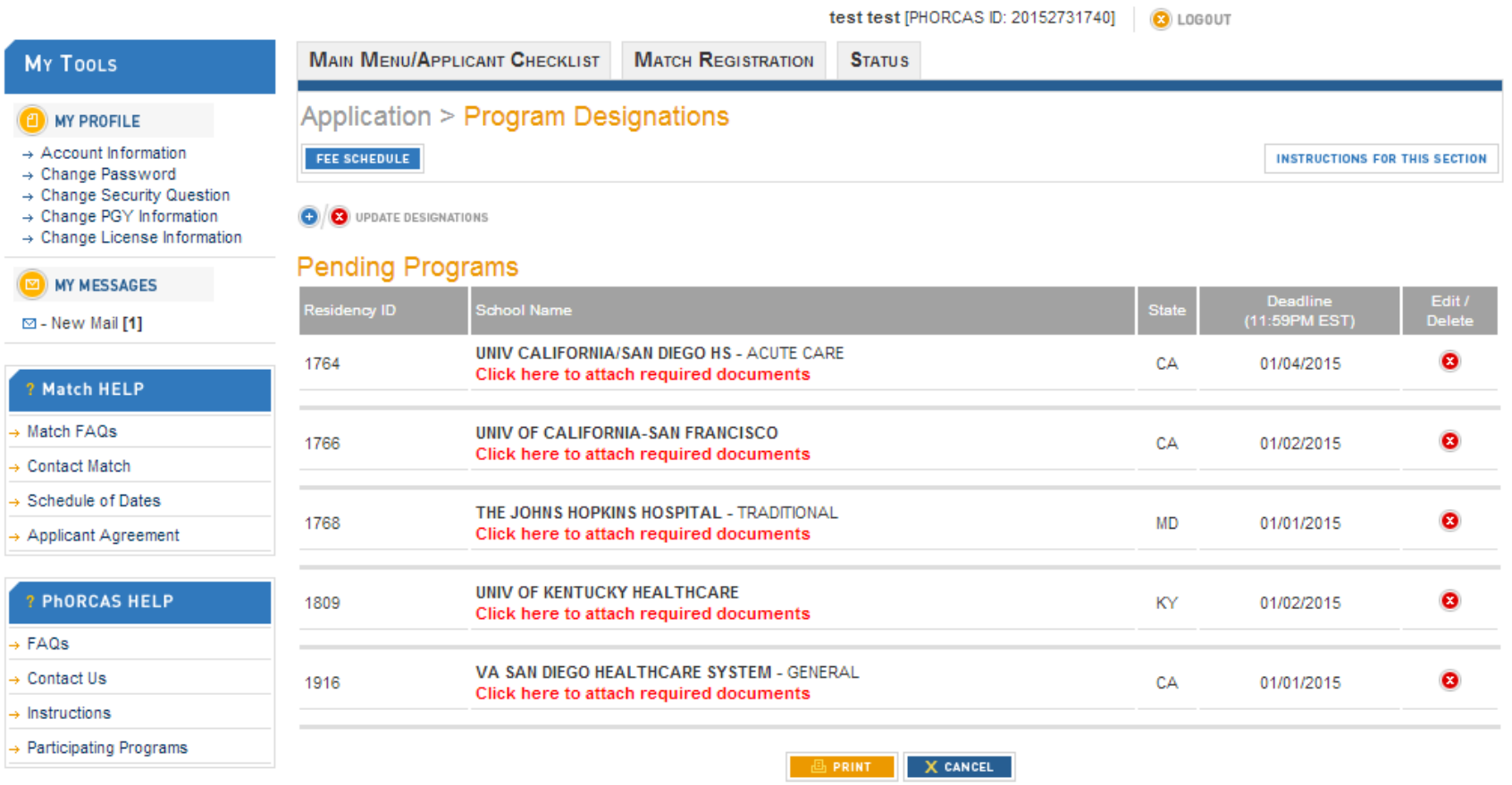
Possible Supplemental Requirements

- ✓ Application forms
- ✓ Additional demographic Information
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ Interview availability
- ✓ Full letter of recommendation
- ✓ Other transcripts
- ✓ Place all supplemental material for each program on a **single** PDF and upload
- ✓ Max 5MB

Residency Program Designations



Residency Program Designations



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Residency Program Designations

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E - SUBMIT

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National Matching Services Inc.
Danielle Harvey [PHORCAS ID: 20142714598]
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If you are reapplying from last year, please review each section of your application and confirm all information that has been carried over.
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Pharmacy College(s) Attended
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Curriculum Vita/Resume
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Residency Program Designations
E-SUBMIT

E- SUBMIT

- ✓ Do not wait until the last moment
- ✓ You may encounter difficulties when submitting
- ✓ Applying early allows programs to completely review your application

How Many Programs is Enough?

- Too many: ∞
- Consider all programs that are a good fit
- Impossible to predetermine # interview invitations
  - $ Time away from rotations
  - $ Cost to apply
  - $ Cost to travel to interview
- Too few: 0

Next Steps

- Continue networking
- Rotation = interview
- Formulate list of programs
- Start asking for letter writers
- Update CV
- Begin letter of intent(s)
- Register for PhORCAS and NMS

Summary - Cost

Program	Cost
National Matching Service	$150
PhORCAS – up to 4 applications	$100
PhORCAS – each additional application	$40

Summary – Take Home Points

- ✓ Be organized; be thorough
- ✓ No spelling/grammatical errors
- ✓ Simple fonts (New Times Roman/Arial); Avoid symbols
- ✓ Communicate well with references; thank references
- ✓ Know your deadlines; meet your deadlines
- ✓ Apply to “good fit” programs

CSHP Seminar Related events

- Friday, 10/27
  - 8:00 – 9:30: CV Workshop (CV's submitted prior to Seminar will be reviewed)
  - 1:00 – 2:00: Beyond Graduation & More: Career Transitions
  - 2:00 – 5:00: Residency showcase
  - 4:00 – 5:00: Preparing for the NAPLEX and CPJE Exams
- Saturday, 10/28
  - 8:00 – 11:00: Residency Showcase
  - 10:00 – 11:00: Mindful Interviewing: how to make a meaningful connection
  - 12:45 – 2:00: Panel discussion: Navigating your career
  - 1:00 – 2:00: Clinical Pharmacy Career Roundtable
- Sunday, 10/29
  - 9:15 – 10:45: Beyond the PharmD Degree: An overview of post graduate programs

ASHP Midyear Related events

- Sunday, 12/3
  - 7:30 – 5:00: Personnel Placement Service (PPS; residency, fellowship and employment connections)
  - 11:30 – 12:30: “Mysteries of the Match”
  - 1:30 – 3:00: PhORCAS: the centralized application system for pharmacy residencies
  - 3:15 - 4:45: Make a Lasting Impression: Evaluating Your Interview Skills
- Monday, 12/4
  - 7:30 – 5:00: PPS
  - 9:00 – 10:30: Opening session: Former First Lady Michelle Obama
  - 11:30 – 1:00: Career Pearls for Students (12 career representative pharmacists sharing their day-to-day)
  - 1:00 – 4:00: Residency Showcase
  - 1:30 – 3:00: Fundamental Strategies to Secure a Residency: Getting a Head Start as a P1-P3
- Tuesday, 12/5
  - 7:30 – 5:00: PPS
  - 8:00 – 11:00: Residency Showcase
  - 1:00 – 2:15: Effective CV and resume writing
  - 1:00 – 4:00: Residency Showcase
  - 4:30 – 5:30: Clinical pearls for students
- Wednesday, 12/6
  - 7:30 – 5:00: PPS
  - 7:30 PM – 11:00 PM: Wednesday Evening Event

How programs can optimize the WebAdmit portal within PhORCAS

Last year: Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00: Residency program directors and preceptors Town Hall: updates from the commission on credentialing

Interviews

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“I just get my list of applicants from PhORCAS; from there, I SKYPE everyone. It takes just as much manpower to SKYPE everyone as it does to review the application material in PhORCAS, plus I get to evaluate everyone’s communication skills before I bring them in for an onsite interview.”

Your thoughts?

Skype interview tips
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQwanxQmFnc

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PhORCAS
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What’s in YOUR Phorecast?

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Thank You

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