



University of
Pittsburgh

School of
Pharmacy

2020 Match Day Results

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Summary created by Pitt Pharmacy's SSHP Chapter

Table of Contents

Description.....	Page 3
General Results.....	Page 4
General Advice.....	Page 6

Area-Specific Information:

Pharmacy Practice.....	Page 10
Managed Care	Page 12
Pharmacy Administration.....	Page 13
Fellowship.....	Page 13
Words of Encouragement.....	Page 14

Description

This data was collected from Class of 2020 University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy students, following the second round of the ASHP Resident Matching Program. Student responses were anonymously compiled with the goal of better understanding the match process. Twenty-six students responded to the survey and provided answers to applicable questions.

The first section contains general survey results for all twenty-six students. It provides a visual representation of data regarding application to and results of the match. It also contains a list of programs students have matched with. For any questions specific to programs, please see the corresponding slide set (PDF) sent out by SSHP, to get in contact with respective students.

The second section contains general advice, written by students, about residency application preparation, ASHP Midyear (where the annual residency showcase is held), the interview process & ranking considerations.

The subsequent sections in this document are student reflections within several different areas of pharmacy practice. The sections with at least one response include: pharmacy practice (clinical PGY1 or PGY1/PGY2), community pharmacy practice/ ambulatory care, and pharmacy administration. Within each area, there is information about the interviewing process, presentation and case solving requirements, and preparation strategies.

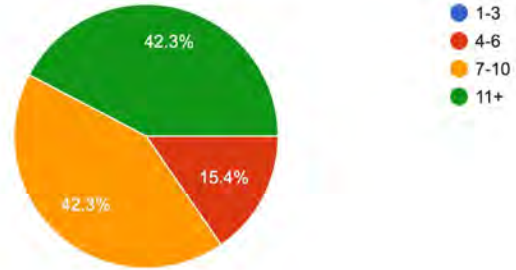
Please remember that each student experience is unique, and there are many resources to help you prepare for your own post-graduate training!

General Results

The following data was collected from the 26 students who responded to the survey:

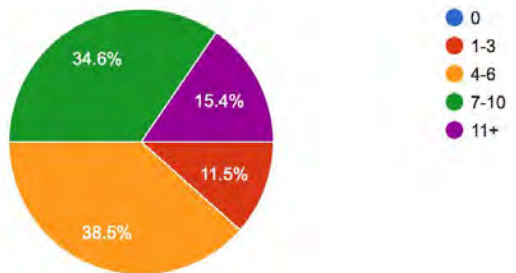
Number of residency programs applied to:

- 1 to 3 programs: 0/26 (0%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 4/26 (15.4%)
- 7 to 10 programs: 11/26 (42.3%)
- 11+ programs: 11/26 (42.3%)



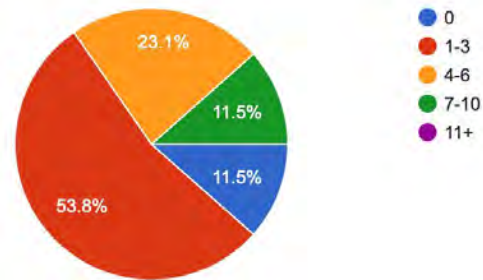
Number of interviews received:

- 1 to 3 interviews: 3/26 (11.5%)
- 4 to 6 interviews: 10/26 (38.5%)
- 7 to 10 interviews: 9/26 (34.6%)
- 11+ interviews: 4/26 (15.4%)



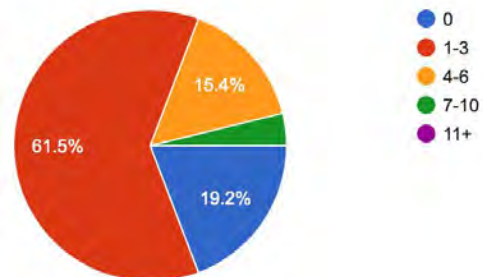
Out of all the programs you applied to, how many would you consider to be “reach” programs?

- 0 programs: 3/26 (11.5%)
- 1 to 3 programs: 14/26 (53.8%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 6/26 (23.1%)
- 7 to 10 programs: 3/26 (11.5%)



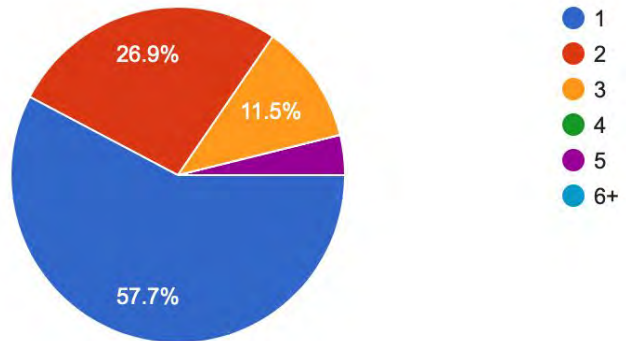
Out of all the programs you applied to, how many would you consider to be “safety” programs?

- 0 programs: 5/26 (19.2%)
- 1 to 3 programs: 16/26 (61.5%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 4/26 (15.4%)
- 7 to 10 programs: 1/26 (3.8%)



Of the 26 students who have matched & provided us with feedback:

- ❖ 15/26 students matched with their **#1 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ❖ 7/26 students matched with their **#2 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ❖ 3/26 students matched with their **#3 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ❖ 0/26 students matched with their **#4 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ❖ 1/26 students matched with their **#5 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)



Residency Programs Pitt Pharmacy Class of 2020 Matched With:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ❖ UPMC Mercy | ❖ Geisinger Medical Center |
| ❖ Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania | ❖ Highmark Inc. |
| ❖ Duke University Hospital | ❖ Northwestern Memorial Hospital |
| ❖ UPMC Presbyterian | ❖ Carolinas Medical Center |
| ❖ Allegheny General Hospital | ❖ Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Community-Based Care |
| ❖ Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center | ❖ UH Cleveland Medical Center |
| ❖ Forbes and West Penn Hospitals | ❖ Prisma Health PGY1 Acute Care |
| ❖ San Diego VA Health Care System | ❖ Indian Health Services |
| ❖ UNC Hospital Ambulatory Care PGY1 | ❖ Prisma Health Richland
Ambulatory Care |

General Advice

1. Preparation

- Get involved
 - Start early! It's never too early to start. The earlier you know the easier it is to prepare. Try and figure out what you think you can do with a residency (teaching, clinical practice, research etc.) and how you can best apply what you learned in school to your future practice.
 - Apply for internships that align with your interests, obtain leadership positions within student organizations, and get involved with research and projects throughout pharmacy school.
- Build a strong CV
 - Update your CV regularly with projects, research, presentations, leadership positions, and national awards. You want your CV to be clean and concise while also reflecting you and your accomplishments.
 - Make sure you know your CV really well! In preparation for residency interviews, practice talking about the different things on your CV out loud and think about what things you have down that could be used to answer different types of situational questions.
 - Send your CV to faculty members, preceptors, alumni, current residents, and non-pharmacy friends for edits and revisions. You want to make sure your CV stands out while being clean and concise.
 - The name of the game is if you have it on your CV. It's fair game for an interviewer to ask questions about it, so know your CVs inside and out.
- Form positive relationships
 - It's important to connect with professors, preceptors, mentors and co-workers throughout pharmacy school rotations, research, or projects. Obtaining quality letters of recommendations from individuals who know you well and understand your professional goals is important.
 - Reach out to mentors and faculty members who are pursuing your area of interest. Allow them to get to know you well through involvement with their research and projects.
 - Meet up with a mentor/trusted faculty member to get an idea of how competitive of a candidate you are/how many programs it would make sense for you to apply to.
- During rotations
 - Keeping a journal during rotations and documenting memorable patient interactions is a great way to prepare for interviews! This will be a useful resource for you to reflect on when preparing for situational interview questions.
 - Don't be afraid to ask your preceptor questions! You want to make the most out of your APPE rotations.
 - Try to set up rotations in your area of interest before applications. This allowed me to gain more experience in my area of interest and build connections with my preceptors who wrote me personal letters of recommendation.

- Midyear Residency Showcase
 - Midyear is a great opportunity to narrow down your application list and find out which programs you are truly interested in.
 - Trust your gut during mid year. If you think a program isn't right for you, be critical when determining which programs you want to apply to.
 - Although midyear is mostly for the students' benefit, it is important to conduct yourself professionally - sign in at booths, provide business cards, etc. Programs will remember if you make a bad impression!
 - In preparation for midyear, have a list of specific questions you want to ask each program before going. I printed my questions out so I wouldn't forget!
- Maintain your grades, as GPA is important
 - Although it is important to be well rounded and have outside the classroom experience, your GPA will either open or close doors for you in the initial applicant review for residency. Take your didactic coursework seriously!

2. Application Process

- Apply to a RANGE of programs
 - I struggled with identifying a list that had a mix of safety, reach, and "average" programs. This is where having a faculty member/advisor can really help you with that! It is important to remember that personal preference is subjective. The experiences you want from a program may not be the same as someone else so there is no master list of which programs are "better" than others.
 - I would say the general rule of thumb is to have at least 2-3 "reach" programs, 4-6 programs where you will be a competitive candidate, and 2-3 safety programs.
 - Avoid limiting yourself geographically, if possible. The more opportunities you allow yourself to take, the better your odds of finding the right fit.
- Know your interests
 - Weigh risks and benefits, and think about what would make you feel fulfilled in a program. So think about what YOUR priorities are (not what others tell you to prioritize)!
 - Do not waste your application money on any program that you are not truly interested in. Just because a program sounds amazing on paper does not mean you should apply to it. Culture is the most important thing you can find out about a program; you have to find a place that you can truly see yourself enjoying. That will provide you with the best experience.
- Conduct your research
 - Use the ASHP directory to research programs and look at the program websites to get more information about the programs.
 - When looking into programs, reach out to mentors and past Pitt students to learn more than what is on the programs' websites.
 - Start your program research early prior to Midyear. It is better to have 20 programs that you're interested in talking to at the showcase than 5-6. It will give you an opportunity to decide which programs you want to apply to when the time comes.
- Identify general requirements for each application
 - Each program is different and may have different requirements for letters of recommendations, etc. For example, some programs require 3 general letters of recommendations while others will specify where the letters need to come from (employer, faculty, rotation preceptors etc.).

- Personalize your letter of intent
 - This can make or break your application. Show them why you're interested in THEIR program instead of making it sound like generic letter that you're writing to everyone
 - Try to have a letter of intent ready and reviewed before midyear so all you have to do is create program specific sections after midyear.
- Consider if you want to do a PGY2
 - If the answer is yes, tailor your search to programs you may have the option to early commit to, as this can be a good way to narrow down your search.

3. Interview Advice

- Be your authentic self
 - You are interviewing the program, just as much as the program is interviewing you. Be yourself, and be true to yourself!
 - You want to remain professional throughout the entire time and see if your personality meshes with the people who work there at the same time. You will be there for a year and the year can go by at a much faster or slower rate depending on how you get along with your colleagues and supervisors.
- Practice, practice, practice
 - Prepare for interview questions with several different personal experiences and scenarios. Think of 5-6 scenarios that you can use for a variety of different situational questions. These can include experiences with leadership, rotation/patient interventions, research, internship, etc.
 - Incorporate your experiences with leadership, patient encounters, rotations, research, and job experience into your preparation for scenario-based questions to showcase your strengths and skills.
 - Practice answering common interview questions outloud and have multiple scenarios in mind that you can use to answer different questions. Practicing and thinking about interview questions prior to the actual interviews makes actually answering the questions less stressful.
 - When answering questions, you don't want to come off as too rehearsed. You want it to be conversational and natural. It's okay to pause and think about your answer briefly before speaking.
 - You want it to be succinct but informative. If you go on for too long you will lose the interest of the interviewer. Too short and the interviewer will feel like you're not interested.
- Background reading
 - Do your research on the program, as many interviewers will ask specifics about why you are interested in their specific program/institution. Also, this will allow you to ask more directed questions and gain a better understanding of the program culture and environment.
 - Review guidelines before interviews and keep note of any recent changes
 - Review the patient interactions and recommendations that you have kept track of during your rotations prior to interviews.
- Researching interview questions

- I would recommend using RxPrep or class notes to review for clinical cases and preparing 5-10 good examples/stories that you can use to answer situational interviewing questions.
- Find a list of practice questions on Google and practice answering questions out loud and with other people (friends, faculty members, etc.), so they can give you feedback.
- There are lots of great resources for example questions and common question topics - Reddit and Google can be a good resource for this.
- ASHP has valuable links with common questions. In general, it is important to think about occasions during your APPE rotations that showed off your abilities (i.e. a time you showed initiative, a time you problem solved, a time you had to work with others, your best pharmacy intervention, etc.)
- What are some of the most common questions you were asked?
 - “Tell me about yourself”
 - “Tell me about a time”
 - “Why did you want to do a residency?”
 - “Why did you apply to this specific program?”
 - “Why did you choose pharmacy?”
 - “What is on your CV that you are most proud of?”
 - “What makes you the best candidate?”
 - Situational questions
- Helpful tips
 - Take notes as soon as you are done with an interview about what stood out to you/general information on the program/institution. If you go on a lot of interviews, they eventually blur together. I used my notes a lot after interviews to help me rank and looked at the details to see what was important when I ranked.
 - Bringing copies of your best works (publications, posters, special projects) can make for a great visual aid and can help distinguish yourself from others.
 - If I had to do this again, I would have definitely brushed up more on some of the finer details of monitoring parameters.

Pharmacy Practice (23)

Overview

- All 9 of my interviews included either a patient case, clinical questions, or both.
- Each interview was structured differently. However, most often I was given some time to work through the case and was then asked to present and discuss the case to preceptors or current residents.

Details about presentation experience

- I was given advanced warning ahead of the interview to prepare a 30 to 40 min patient case presentation on a disease state and patient I had seen during one of my rotations. I presented the patient, her journey throughout her hospital stay, and the primary disease state. At the end of the presentation, I was asked questions about the case and what things I would have done differently for the patient if I was making some of the recommendations.
- After presenting my case, the interviewers closely questioned pathophysiology, treatment regimen, and monitoring factors.
- Although many of the questions are straightforward, a review of the topics would definitely help you maximize time when solving cases. It will allow you to speed through a lot of the extraneous data that the interviewers may throw at you to test if you can pick out the most important information.
- I was able to prepare my presentations beforehand. I would suggest picking a topic that you are really interested in and also makes sense with the residency program. I reused a topic from one of my rotations and adjusted it a bit.
- Some interviewers will ask for paper copies of your presentation as a handout so make sure to print around 10 to 12 if asked to and bring extras. Otherwise, it makes it difficult for the interviewers to follow along.

Details about clinical case experience

- The clinical cases that I solved usually involved a patient with multiple problems going on at the same time. Depending on the site, I was asked to either present the most urgent problem or all of the drug therapy problems. I was usually given 20 to 30 min to read and work up the case before being asked to present the case/give my recommendations to either a single interviewer or a panel of interviewers depending on the site.
- If you don't know something, it is okay to say that and talk about how you would go about finding the answer.
- In terms of clinical cases, they were mainly chronic issues: HTN, Dyslipidemia, DM, HF, COPD, and anticoagulation. However, the cases can also be acute situations like CAP/HAP/VAP, acute HF, and acute liver cirrhosis.
- At my ambulatory care interviews, cases focused almost entirely on chronic disease state management.

Details about clinical questions

- In terms of clinical questions, they were mainly situational (example: what would you do about the vancomycin dose given x,y,z conditions or what would you do if you disagree with the resident/fellow concerning an order that you had to verify, etc).
- Don't stress too much about dosing! Many of the cases were straightforward.

Additional components: In addition to presentations, cases, and clinical questions, what were some unique interview components you were required to do?

- Presentation about yourself
- Answer situational questions

- Present a drug monograph of a new drug
- How-to demonstration
- Drug information question
- Escape room and riddles

Required to give a presentation: 15/23 (65.2%)

Required to solve a case: 21/23 (91.3%)

Required to answer clinical questions: 21/23 (91.3%)

ARCO participation: Pharmacotherapy Scholars (40%), N/A (32%), Global Health (12%), Pediatrics (8%), Pharmacy Analytics (4%)

Preparation

- Faculty review of resume/CV: 20/23 (86.9%)
- Faculty review of LOI: 14/23 (60.8%)
- Faculty/Preceptor support for activities:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| ● Dr. Nolin | ● Dr. Donihi |
| ● Dr. Benedict | ● Dr. Miller |
| ● Dr. Coons | ● Dr. Pruskowski |
| ● Dr. Farrah | ● Dr. Berenbrok |
| ● Dr. Schonder | ● Dr. Carroll |
| ● Dr. Horn | ● Professor Skledar |
| ● Dr. Jonkman | ● Dr. Rivosecchi |
| ● Dr. Falcione | ● Dr. McCreary |

Managed Care (1)

Details about presentation experience

- I was required to prepare a 30 minute presentation beforehand on a topic of my choice. I picked something related to the field I had previously presented and felt comfortable with the material. In creating the presentation, I kept the slides uncluttered and easy to read. To prepare for the presentation, I had a preceptor in the topic specialty review the presentation beforehand.

Additional components

- Situational questions

Required to give a presentation: 1/1 (100%)

Required to solve a case: 1/1 (100%)

Required to answer clinical questions: 1/1 (100%)

ARCO participation: N/A

Preparation:

- Faculty review of resume/CV: 1/1 (100%)
- Faculty review of LOI: 1/1 (100%)
- Faculty/Preceptor support for activities: Dr. Horn

Pharmacy Administration (1)

Details about presentation experience

- At my interview, I gave a presentation on a leadership topic of my choice. This was a very informal 15 minute presentation with no follow-up questions.

Details about case experience

- I was given 45 minutes to read and work up a case, and I had to identify 6 of the most pertinent drug therapy problems I could find.
- For other interviews, I had 15 minutes to complete a case. The case directly stated what I needed to address.
- For one of my interviews, I was required to work through an administrative case. However, this particular administrative residency was very clinically focused.

Required to give a presentation: 1/1 (100%)

Required to solve a case: 1/1 (100%)

Required to answer clinical questions: 1/1 (100%)

ARCO participation: N/A

Preparation:

- Faculty review of resume/CV: 1/1 (100%)
- Faculty review of LOI: 1/1 (100%)
- Faculty/Preceptor support for activities: N/A

Fellowship (1)

Details about interview

- During the interview, I was required to answer behavioral questions, questions about my resume, and questions related to the company and the specific position I was applying for.

Required to give a presentation: 0/1 (0%)

Required to solve a case: 0/1 (0%)

Required to answer clinical questions: 0/1 (0%)

ARCO participation: Research

Preparation: N/A

Words of Encouragement

- ★ You are interviewing the program, just as much as the program is interviewing you. Be yourself, and be true to yourself!
- ★ When you get accepted for any interview it's important to remember that they have already decided you're capable enough to be a resident with them. Now it's your turn to stand out from other people interviewing by showing them your shining personality!
- ★ Pitt prepares you well! Have confidence in yourself and realize you are more competitive than you think.