

## Accepted Student Panel 5/19

Start: 6:10

End: 7:02

- Why did you choose Pharmacy?
  - Student 1: Want to help patients and help them find solutions to help them with their health and have a family member that's a pharmacist.
  - Student 2: Had a family friend that was a pharmacist. Also saw how hands-on pharmacy was. Want to help patients.
  - Student 3: Found an internship at a hospital and was placed to work in the pharmacy. It was cool to see how pharmacy was the "backbone" of the hospital
  - Student 4: Interested in drug design and how the drug gets formed. How to study for the drug to get into the market. Enjoy being in the lab. Interested in the formulation of the drug and see how it creates different side effects per person.
- Why and how did you choose your school?
  - Student 3 (UCSF): Looked for 4 main things; location (want to be near family), cost of attendance/tuition, length of the program, and vibes to see that they care about their students.
  - Student 2 (UCSF): First, it was their top school from high school, public vs private, and commute vs rent, had a pros and cons list. You're going to have to dedicate your time to the school, follow what your heart says.
  - Student 1 (UCSF): Looked location wise and wanted independence. Also looked at a 3 year program, less money spent in the 3 year program vs a 4 year program. Looked at the vibes as well. Had lots of opportunities as well at UCSF and the idea of innovation, wanting more out of pharmacy. Lots of different opportunities that open the doors to more than just retail.
  - Student 5 (CNU): Didn't have as many choices compared to the other students, but looked at the most was the match rate. Knows that they want to be a clinical pharmacist and has the highest match rate to the type of pharmacy they want to do. Looked at the match rate and then location.
- What do you most important in standing out as an application
  - Student 5: Make sure it is cohesive and that it can stand alone by itself. Have a solid application. Even if you have one section that is weaker than other points, it's better to still try to have a strong overall application.
  - Student 1: Be genuine in telling a story about yourself. Being able to convey your personality well and give them a good sense of who you are and who you will be

as a potential pharmacy student. In an interview it can see if it holds true to your personal statement.

- Student 2: Some interviews won't see your application before the interview, but it's good to reiterate your personal statement. Make sure to be true to yourself and don't exaggerate, just be 100% you. Show them how you built yourself from the challenges you faced whether it be from not amazing grades or less opportunities.
- Student 3: Have a solid experience where you worked in a group so that you had a leadership role and have qualities of a leader. Having a strong example in those will help make you stand out. Be genuine!
- What did you find most challenging about the process of applying to pharmacy school?
  - Student 3: Most challenging was the interview because there is only so much that you can do to prepare for it. They can ask you any question possible and it's hard to prepare for. Had an interview that was for 7 hours and they had to sit there and it was difficult to do so. Prioritize your personal statement. They also weigh the supplemental statements nearly the same as personal statements,
  - Student 2: Most difficult thing was that it was during school and trying to find a good school and application balance. However it did help with time management skills. For interviews they studied the most common questions that could be asked.
  - Student 1: Interview wise, tried to take down notes and better to just sink into the uncomfortability of the whole process. Very important to start on the personal statement and go through it over and over and over again. Definitely have other people to read it. Try to do supplementals ahead of time as well.
  - Student 5: Hardest thing was school being at the same time as the application and planning courses that were not difficult. Time management was difficult throughout the whole process. Even if you have something done, keep on reading it over and over till you can make it the best that it can be.
- How did you get strong letters of recommendation and how did you approach them and keep in contact with them?
  - Student 5: Be sure to check the schools you're applying to and find if there are specific requirements. Found professors that they knew can write a strong letter for them. Faculty members were most difficult to find and found a professor that was able to write a recommendation letter.
  - Student 1: Had a science professor and had their community college ochem professor write the letter. Took their class twice and went to their office hours.

Had a supervisor write a recommendation letter and gave them their resume and CV and answered some of their questions. Write in the email, can you write me a \*strong\* letter of recommendation. See if they have the time to do it as well.

- Student 2: Some schools recommend having a letter of recommendation from a pharmacist. As their boss if they could write a letter since they worked in a customer service job. Their boss knew them for the past 4 years and knew that the student helped train the new employees. Asked their advisor and they knew each other fairly well. They asked a recent professor and joined their research, remember to ask to write a \*strong\* letter of recommendation. Give yourself and then write about a month to about a month and a half.
- Student 3: Big emphasis on a \*strong\* letter of recommendation. Make sure they know you as a person and that you're not a total stranger. Make sure you go to their office hours. Ask their advisor and they can speak about their independence and hard work.
- What extracurricular activities are you a part of?
  - Student 2: Got involved in a club that was part of their culture and had a board position. Student worker at the ARC market as a job. Also have a research position.
  - Student 1: UC Davis Cub Support, a tutoring club for K-12. Especially important during covid to help kids learn better. Taught kids how to play piano.
  - Student 5: Worked for the orientation department on campus and moved up in position, now an orientation student manager. Been a part of Pre-Pharm club since freshman year and held a board position for 2 years. Also an officer in the history club. Also was a pharmacy tech at CVS.
- What is something you look forward to/nervous about pharmacy school?
  - Student 5: Lots of unknown and nervous about it. Plans could potentially change.
  - Student 1: Making food for themselves every single day, and nervous about handling stress from pharmacy school.
  - Student 2: Moving to the big city and in a new environment.
  - Student 3: No idea. It's high school all over and just go with the flow.
  - Student 4: Thinking about going into industry and doing a 9-5 for the rest of your life but still excited to be an adult outside of school.