

# How to Become a Competitive Applicant 11/17

Start: 6:10

## PharmCas

- Opens mid-July for 2022-2023
- Make sure you have met:
  - The GPA requirement (2.6-3.0)
    - Always check with your school you're applying to
    - Competitive: higher than 3.0 GPA
    - Grades be a C or higher
    - There is a section where you can explain why you did poorly in a class
  - Prereq classes
  - Have the correct supplements
  - Transcripts
  - Evaluations
  - PCAT scores
- Personal Statements
  - Make sure you have had them peer reviewed many times
  - Have many revisions
  - UWP 104F has a lot of resources, HPA
  - \*very important
- Letters of Rec
  - Have them in a month before apps are due

## Prerequisites

- Organic Chem
- Physics
- Communications (Public Speaking)
- Economics
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Check the HPA site for the class codes for Davis

## Extracurricular

- Research: check UC Davis undergrad research site

- Pharmacy Related Jobs
- Clubs: Gain leadership experience
- HRIs, volunteering, clinics
- These experiences don't have to relate to pharmacy!

#### Letters of Recommendation

- Start the relationship early!
  - Office hours
  - Get to know your professor
  - Ask questions
- Choose wisely
  - Choose someone that can speak to your character
  - They know enough about you
  - Some schools require specific letters from instructors or pharmacists
- Ask early
  - Might need to give the writer your CV, personal statement, or resume

#### PCAT

- Not required by many schools
  - But is recommended you take it
- Usually taken the summer before you apply
- 5 subtests
  - Writing, biological processes, chemical processes, critical reading, and quantitative reasoning

#### Tips

- Freshman
  - Make out a possible timeline of classes you need to take
  - Make good study habits
  - Make good relationships with professors
- Sophomore
  - Continue to talk to professors
- Junior
  - If taking the PCAT, start studying for it
  - Start thinking who to ask letter of recs from
- Senior

- Start asking the professors for letters of recommendation
- Refining personal statement
- HPA is a good resource
- Mentors from Pharm schools can help connect with pharmacy students
- Ask family and friends to help with personal statement

#### Q&A/Application Experiences

- Make sure you know what the exact requirements for every school is
- UOP cares where you get the letter of recommendation
  - Make sure you get a letter of recommendation of what the school wants
- Be *\*very careful\** who you ask for your letters of recommendation
- Start as soon as possible
- When entering courses with PharmCas, ask for your official transcript so you have the exact classes that match
- Order the official transcript from your community college if you did transfer
- Submit *\*all\** your transcripts
  - They will find out eventually
- PharmCas does have waivers if you qualify for it
  - You have 14 days to submit your application if you requested the waivers
- Ask whoever you're asking for letter of recommendation to make sure that they *\*know\** you as a person
- Volunteering does not have to be pharmacy related, it can be anything
  - Try as much volunteering with the community
- Write your personal statement as soon as possible
- Supplemental Questions take a lot of time
  - Like 4 mini personal statements
  - Need a lot of time for it
  - Like typical interview questions
    - What do you like about our program, what makes you fit into our programs, etc
- Don't leave anything out from your college career
- Make sure you address something that's a blank spot
  - So you're completely transparent about your college career
- Schools have different deadlines
  - However once you submit your application to one college, you can't change what you have already sent

- What kinds of questions did you ask during office hours to build a relationship with the professor?
  - Ask little things so they knew you
  - Go to every office hours
  - Try to talk to them to get to know them better
  - Upper division professor would be slightly easier to form relationships with with smaller classes sizes and such
  - Email professors a lot
  - Try to step outside your comfort zone

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