

Preparing for a Pediatric Pharmacy Residency



Tips for the residency application process

First and second year pharmacy students

- Maintain a competitive pharmacy school 3.0 GPA or above (recommended)
- Demonstrate leadership qualities and involvement in pharmacy school activities
- Create a CV and update it regularly
- Plan your rotation rankings early – review pediatric APPE options for future ranking. Plan to request a pediatric focused APPE rotation for the beginning of your rotational year
- Plan ahead for who you'd like to ask for letters of recommendation (**A letter of recommendation from a pediatric pharmacist is preferred**)
- Show interest and learn more about pediatric pharmacy
 - Participate in events and activities involving children
 - Talk to and/or shadow a pediatric pharmacist
 - Volunteer/work at a pediatric hospital, clinic or other facility
 - Take a pediatric elective class in pharmacy school
 - Join the pediatric professional organization at your school (if there is one)
- Consider attending regional and/or national residency showcases at professional conferences: Annual Meeting for the Pediatric Pharmacy Association, CSHP Seminar and/or ASHP Midyear
- Attend any in person/Zoom/Webinar events your school organizes with residency programs
- Look to see if programs you are interested in have any Open House events (virtual or in person)

Third year pharmacy students (or second year students in a three year program)

- Continue above recommendations for first and second year students
- Request a pediatric focused APPE rotation for the beginning of your rotational year
 - Residency interviews are generally in late January and February
 - Programs prefer you have your pediatric experience before your interview
- Begin considering residency programs and research programs online (see ASHP online residency directory) and make a list of prospective residency programs to investigate (through website searches, conferences, upper classmen in rotations)
- Strongly consider attending regional and/or national residency showcases at professional conferences: Annual Meeting for the Pediatric Pharmacy Association, CSHP Seminar and/or ASHP Midyear
- Look online/contact programs to see if they will have any Open House events

Fourth year pharmacy students (or third year students in a three year program)

- Continue to show interest in pediatric pharmacy
 - Complete a pediatric clinical rotation, if possible – try to schedule this before the application/interview period so you can speak of it in your CV, letter of intent, and during interviews
- Schedule core clinical rotations (i.e. internal medicine, ambulatory care, hospital rotations) before application period
- Build professional relationships with preceptors, supervisors, faculty and healthcare professionals you work with
 - These are your potential sources for letters of recommendation
 - Every day of a rotation (IPPE/APPE) is an “interview” for your future
- Go to the residency showcases at professional conferences: Annual Meeting for the Pediatric Pharmacy Association, CSHP Seminar and/or ASHP Midyear
- Application process and materials*
 - Thoroughly research programs you apply to, analyze pros and cons
 - Provide a personalized letter of intent - Tailor letters specifically for each program
 - CV – Make sure all extracurricular activities are highlighted (especially if pertaining to a pediatric experience)
 - Optional: Consider including a photo (makes the application more personable and memorable)
 - Have mentors proofread your application materials, cover letters and CV
 - Official transcript (sent directly from pharmacy school to PhORCAS)
 - Please keep in mind that applications are due right after Christmas/New Year's when the school offices may be closed and will not send out your transcript on time.
 - All application materials are submitted via PhORCAS. Application processes for each program may differ. For more information, see website for each residency program and visit <https://portal.phorcass.org/>

Prepare for interviews

- Start early and practice speaking clearly/concise
- Prepare for personal/clinical interview questions
- Attend mock interviews (may be provided through school or organizations such as Pediatric Pharmacy Association)
- Practice SOAPing patient cases
- Talk to pediatric pharmacists about current issues in pediatric pharmacy and potential interview questions
- Research the program you are interviewing for and talk with/ask questions of the current residents
- Be prepared to answer questions about anything on your CV (presentations, projects, etc.)
- Prepare questions to ask about the program during your interview
- Prepare/practice your presentation (most pediatric residency programs require a presentation on a pediatric topic)

Navigating residency showcase (regional clinical meetings – e.g. PPA, CSHP Seminar and ASHP Midyear)

- Introduce yourself and the year of pharmacy school you are in
- If you are a pharmacy student who is not looking to match this year because it is not your last year of pharmacy school, consider the following:
 - Browse through the residency showcase and learn about available programs
 - Due to the large number of students attending the residency showcase, residency program directors may divert attention to candidates applying *for the upcoming year*
 - Be respectful of candidates looking to match *for the upcoming year*
 - Network with current residents and pharmacy directors
- If you are in your last year of pharmacy school and interested in applying for a residency program consider the following:
 - Narrow down the programs you want to visit at the residency showcase before attending
 - Find out the date and time those programs will be at the showcase (not all programs will be present at all sessions)
 - Look at the residency showcase map to find the location of the program booths
 - Programs are listed by site, not by the specific type of residency program offered
 - Figure out your game plan by prioritizing the programs you are most interested in and map out where they're located
 - Make a list of questions you want to ask for each program
 - Take notes after visiting a program's booth
 - Write down what you liked and did not like about each program
 - If you run out of time and are unable to get all of your questions answered, ask for contact information of residents and/or program director to communicate via email
 - Find out if the programs you are interested in will be at another clinical meeting and if you are able to attend, make a point to visit the booth again
 - Some programs also hold an open house in December to give more program details and a tour so attend these for programs you are highly interested in
 - Some programs are involved in ASHP's personal placement services (PPS). This allows time for more personal one-on-one interviews and gives candidates more opportunities to meet the director and/or preceptors, but it requires an additional fee to participate. Check with the programs you are interested in regarding PPS participation. For more information: www.careerpharm.com/basicPPS-seeker.aspx

**Valley Children's Hospital Program Code for the
ASHP NMS Match System: 190313**

Residency Application Process Timeline



- Start working on CV and cover letter
- Plan to attend Residency Showcases (e.g. PPA, CSHP)
- Make travel and housing arrangements for clinical meetings
- Finalize CV (peer and mentor reviewed)
- Ask for letters of recommendation
- Attend regional clinical meeting and go to residency showcase
- Applications are due at the beginning of January, depending on program
- Work on presentations (if required for interview)
- Prepare for interview questions
- On-site interviews begin
- End of June to beginning of July: Start of many residencies; check each program for specific start date



- Review ASHP online residency directory
- Register for ASHP Midyear
- Narrow down programs you want to visit at regional clinical meetings and/or ASHP Midyear
- If attending ASHP, consider registering for PPS www.careerpharm.com for other residency options
- Attend ASHP Midyear and go to residency showcase
- If possible, schedule tours of programs to which you are applying
- Register for the ASHP resident matching program by the end of December and submit required fees at www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/reglink.htm
- Fill out required paperwork in PhORCAS*
- Completion of interviews
- Narrow down residency choices
- Go to <https://natmatch.com/ashprmp/schedule.html> to review the "Full Schedule of Dates"
 - Rank Order Lists submission deadline for Phase I of the Match
 - Results of Phase I of the Match are released to applicants and program directors
 - Applicants who either did not obtain a position in Phase I or did not participate can submit applications to programs participating in Phase II of the Match
 - Rank Order Lists submission deadline for Phase II of the Match
 - Results of Phase II are released to applicants and program directors
 - Unmatched residency candidates will be able to submit applications using PhORCAS to programs with available positions in the post-match process
 - Programs in Post-Match Process can make offers to applicants

* Application paperwork and process may change. For more information: <https://natmatch.com/ashprmp/schedule.html> and <https://portal.phorcas.org/>