Preparing for Midyear: Tips and Tricks

Residency Club
October 28, 2015
Questions

- At this point, what can 3rd years do at Midyear? Are there benefits to going?
  - *Who here is considering attending midyear as DPH-3s?*
  - *What are your thoughts on the pros and cons?*
Interview Timeline

- **May - September:** Research and CV Preparation

- **October:** PPS*, Midyear, PhorCAS, and Match registration*

- **November – December:** Midyear and PPS

- **January - February:** Application and On-site Interviews
Questions

- What are the best ways to prepare as a 3rd year/4th year? (business cards, resume?)
Research

- Helpful Links
  - ASHP Online Residency Directory (www.ashp.org)
  - ACCP Directory of Residencies and Fellowships (www.accp.com)
  - APhA Directory of Pharmacy Practice Residencies with Emphasis in Community Care Pharmacy (www.pharmacist.com)
  - PSW Wisconsin Residencies (http://www.pswi.org/professional/residencies/)
CV Update

- Helpful Tips
  - Proofread!
    - Peers, mentors, professors, pharmacists, non-pharmacists
  - ASHP: http://www.ashp.org/CVReview
  - UW Writing Center: http://www.writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html
  - Purdue OWL: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/641/01/
CV Update

Helpful Tips

- Place contents in table for best alignment
- Avoid section hangover
- Use page numbers and headers
- Appropriate use of **BOLD** *Italics* and *Underline*
- Font choice and size: Easy to read
- Quality paper with classic colors
Purchase Attire

- Classic Colors: black, gray, navy
- Dress conservatively, business professional
- Women: slacks or skirts (with pantyhose)
- Men: no white socks
Midyear

- Helpful Tips
  - Portfolio to include: CV, business cards, notebook paper
  - Quick fact guide for all programs of interest
  - Standard and specific questions for program directors and residents
  - Personalized itinerary
  - List of resident names/directors/preceptors for programs
  - Midyear is a continuous interview***
Be Prepared

- Be ready to discuss “your story”
  - Reason for pursuing residency
  - Reason for becoming a pharmacist
  - Reason for pursuing a specialty program (if applicable)
  - Reason for interest in site (be specific!)

- List of questions in portfolio
  - DO NOT ASK QUESTIONS FOUND ON WEBSITE

- Copies of CV (Hard and Electronic)

- Business Cards
Questions

- Who should we talk to and what questions should we ask?
Portfolio Questions

- Director/Preceptor Specific
  - What do you expect from a PGY1 resident?
  - What do you feel are the strengths of this program?
  - Review director/preceptor past publications/articles
  - Understand your interest area thoroughly
    - Ex. Infectious Disease Interest: Recent guideline updates
    - Ex. Hospital Administration Interest: Future of the profession
Portfolio Questions

- Resident Specific
  - What is your current PGY1 project?
  - If you went through the residency application process all over again, would you select this program?
  - What do you feel are the strengths of this program?
  - What are your top 3 goals for residency?
  - Has this program prepared you to take BCPS?
Typical Candidate Evaluation Criteria

- Prior pharmacy/other work experience
- Academic background/GPA
- Relevant rotations – inpatient, ambulatory, etc.
- Motivation/Initiative/Adaptability/Enthusiasm
- Personal style – maturity, appearance, confidence, teamwork potential, self-reliance, fit with department
Typical Candidate Evaluation Criteria

- Communication skills – verbal and written
- Leadership/Extracurricular activities
- Residency & career goals/residency program fit
- Presentations/Research
- Letters of recommendation
- Letter of interest
- Questions asked by candidate – number, insight, relevance
Questions

- What is the culture like at Midyear? Is there a lot of interaction with other students?
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- What is the culture like at Midyear? Is there a lot of interaction with other students?
  - Networking
  - Professional
  - Big
  - Party
Questions

- When is the best time to go to the residency showcase as 3<sup>rd</sup> years without stepping on 4<sup>th</sup> years toes?
Questions

- Are there any differences between showcases from day-to-day? When is the best time to go?
Is there any benefit to talking to in-state residency (i.e. Wisconsin) or should you focus on out-of-state?
Questions

- What activities are best to participate in?
Questions

- Is there anything special we should know about NO (2015) or Las Vegas (2016)?
Questions

- What are some ways to minimize costs for travel, hotel, food?
Questions

- If you do go as a 3rd year is there a point in going 4th year?
Summary

- Do your research prior to interviewing
- Be prepared, timely, and courteous
- Ask questions
- Follow-up with a thank you note
- Have fun!