

Tips for Preparing for Residency

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References

- Generally 3 references, have a fourth backup
 - One manager
 - One professor
 - One preceptor
- Don't just ask if they would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation
 - “Would you be willing to write a **positive** letter of recommendation in support of me pursuing a residency?”

References

- Give them the timeline for what they need to do up front, and give them due dates
- Start thinking about who you might want to ask now and throughout rotations
 - They generally have a lot of letters they may be asked to write, so give them plenty of heads-up time
- Give the reference writer specific examples

Preparing for Midyear

- Consider going to MY your 3rd year of pharmacy school
- Think about what you might be interested in pursuing (~October/November)
 - PGY2 interests/early commit potential?
 - Big city vs. smaller town?
 - Level 1 trauma center vs not necessary?
 - Large vs. smaller residency class?
 - Geographic area?
 - Connections with SOP?
- There is a searchable database on the ASHP website – use this to your advantage!

Preparing for Midyear

- Prior to midyear (Mid/late November), a map will be posted for the residency showcase
 - Highlight where each program that you want to speak with is in the room for the different sessions
 - Recommend working from the back to the front

Residency Showcase

- Get there about 5 minutes late
- Have 3-5 stock questions that you ask every program
- Have a few personalized questions for each program you plan to speak with
- Make sure gut feel is something you evaluate
- Look at the personalities of the residents you speak with
- Keep track of who you talked to
- Don't stress out!

After Midyear

- Narrow down choices based on your interactions at the showcase
- Create a stock letter of intent that you can then customize for different programs
- Make a checklist of the specified requirements for each application
- Make note of the due dates!
 - Less than a month!

Interviews

- Be confident
- Have answers to standard interview questions
- Think about patient cases or situations that you could use for behavioral questions
 - Could be from class, volunteer experience, rotations, internship, etc.

General Tips

- Keep your CV up to date as you go through rotations – don't fall behind!
- Have ***many, many, many*** people look at your CV and letter of intent
- Keep track of good patient cases/interactions that you may want to speak about during an interview