



Pitt  
Pharmacy

## **2019 Match Day Results**

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Summary created by Pitt Pharmacy's SSHP Chapter

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## **Description**

This data was collected from Class of 2019 University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy students, following the second round of the ASHP Resident Matching Program. Student responses were anonymously compiled with the goal of better understanding the match process. Twenty-four students responded to the survey and provided answers to applicable questions.

The first section contains general survey results for all twenty-four students. It provides a visual representation of data regarding application to and results of the match. It also contains a list of programs students have matched with. For any questions specific to programs, please see the corresponding slide set (PDF) sent out by SSHP, to get in contact with respective students.

The second section contains general advice, written by students, about residency application preparation, ASHP Midyear (where the annual residency showcase is held), the interview process & ranking considerations.

The subsequent sections in this document are student reflections within several different areas of pharmacy practice. The sections with at least one response include: pharmacy practice (clinical PGY1 or PGY1/PGY2), community pharmacy practice/ ambulatory care, and pharmacy administration. Within each area, there is information about the interviewing process, presentation and case solving requirements, and preparation strategies.

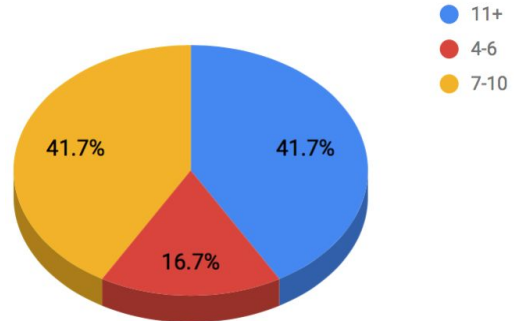
Please remember that each student experience is unique, and there are many resources to help you prepare for your own post-graduate training!

## General Results

The following data was collected from the 24 students who responded to the survey:

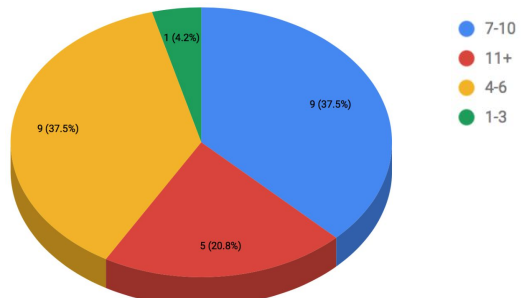
### Number of residency programs applied to:

- 1 to 3 programs: 0/24 (0%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 4/24 (16.7%)
- 7 to 10 programs: 10/24 (41.7%)
- 11+ programs: 10/24 (41.7%)



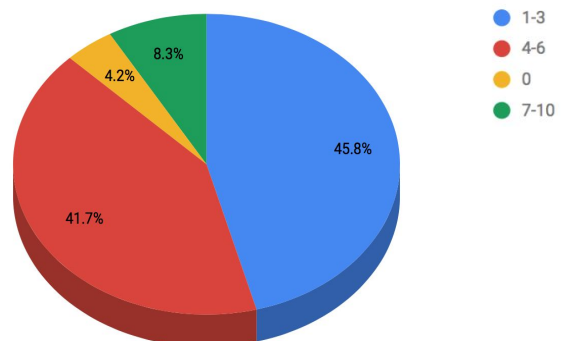
### Number of interviews received:

- 1 to 3 interviews: 1/24 (4.2%)
- 4 to 6 interviews: 9/24 (37.5%)
- 7 to 10 interviews: 9/24 (37.5%)
- 11+ interviews: 5/24 (20.8%)



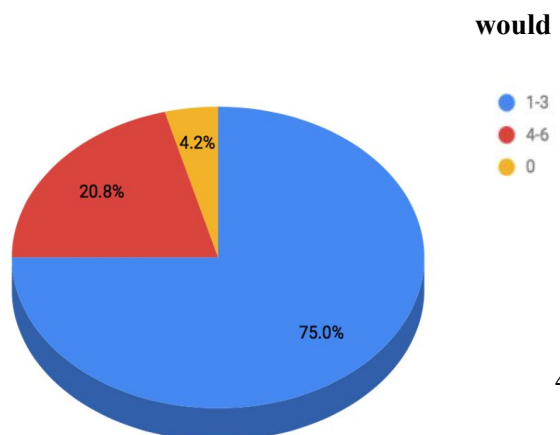
### Out of all the programs you applied to, how many would you consider to be “reach” programs?

- 0 programs: 1/24 (4.2%)
- 1 to 3 programs: 11/24 (45.8%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 10/24 (41.7%)
- 7 to 10 programs: 2/24 (8.3%)



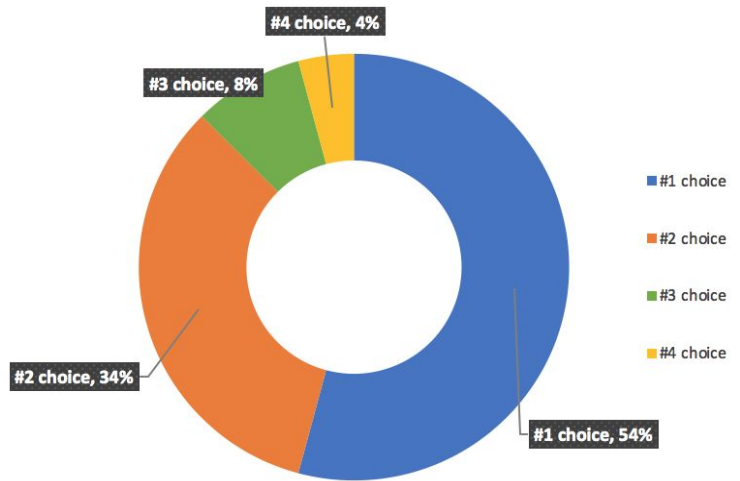
### Out of all the programs you applied to, how many would you consider to be “safety” programs?

- 0 programs: 1/24 (4.2%)
- 1 to 3 programs: 18/24 (75%)
- 4 to 6 programs: 5/24 (20.8%)



**Of the 24 students who have matched & provided us with feedback:**

- ★ **13/24** students matched with their **#1 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ★ **8/24** students matched with their **#2 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ★ **2/24** students matched with their **#3 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)
- ★ **1/24** students matched with their **#4 program** (as ranked on PhORCAS)



**Residency Programs Pitt Pharmacy Class of 2019 Matched With:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Johns Hopkins Hospital</li> <li>● The Medical University of South Carolina</li> <li>● Reading Hospital</li> <li>● Tufts Medical Center</li> <li>● Central Arkansas Veterans HealthCare System</li> <li>● Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia</li> <li>● UPMC Mercy</li> <li>● Touro University/ Lifelong Medical Center</li> <li>● William S Middleton VA Medical Center</li> <li>● VA Pittsburgh</li> <li>● Mayo Clinic Hospital - Rochester, MN</li> <li>● Northeastern University/ Harbor Health Community Health Centers</li> <li>● University of North Carolina Medical Center - Ambulatory Care</li> <li>● Maimonides Medical Center</li> <li>● Albert Einstein Medical Center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chalmers P Wylie</li> <li>● Philadelphia VA Medical Center</li> <li>● Temple University Hospital</li> <li>● University of Cincinnati Medical Center</li> <li>● Johns Hopkins Home Care Group PGY1/PGY2 Community-Based Pharmacy Admin. &amp; Leadership/MBA</li> <li>● UPMC St. Margaret PGY1/PGY2 (geriatrics)</li> <li>● Christiana Care Health System</li> <li>● UPMC McKeesport</li> <li>● University of Chicago Medical Center</li> <li>● New York Presbyterian Hospital</li> <li>● Massachusetts General Hospital</li> <li>● Duke University Hospital</li> <li>● Loyola University Medical Center</li> <li>● West Virginia University Medicine</li> <li>● Christiana Care Health System</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## General Advice

### 1. Preparation

- Start your search early - there are a lot of programs to research, in little time, if you just start your search your P4 year.
- Form positive relationships with professors, preceptors and coworkers through research or other projects, as getting good letters of recommendation is crucial!
  - Schedule APPE's that match your interests before application season hits, as many programs prefer letters of recommendation from APPE preceptors
- Maintain your grades, as GPA is important - for programs that use this as a screening tool, it can be challenging to receive an interview offer, given the level of competition now. However, still make sure to have a well-rounded CV.
- Your CV needs to be clean and concise:
  - Update your CV (projects, research, presentations, leadership positions, national awards) every month so that you don't forget anything. You can always trim it down when it comes time to actually apply, if needed.
  - Ask every preceptor you are on rotation with to review your CV and provide the appropriate language to describe your rotation with them.
  - Put work into your presentation portfolio (during P3 year) and showcase your best work, as many interviewers have commented on how much they loved the presentation portfolio.
- During rotations:
  - Keep track of your memorable patient interactions in a diary, so you can easily reflect on your experiences during interviews.
  - Don't be afraid to make recommendations on rotations, because on every interview, a student had the question, "tell me about a time when a recommendation you made wasn't accepted."
  - Give presentations, get pharmacist feedback, and continuously practice to enhance your presentation skills, so you are ready for interviews.
- Midyear Residency Showcase:
  - It is encouraged to attend the residency showcase and talk to residents from any program you think there might be even a small chance you'd apply to.
    - Be critical when determining what programs you want to apply to - you may get interviews to all of the programs you apply to, which is extremely tiring and expensive!
  - Try to talk to people from residency programs that you're interested in, ahead of mid-year. Those impressions will stick out more than the ones during the craziness of interview season or the residency showcase.
- Have a strong letter of intent:
  - Start to really prepare a general letter of intent around mid-November, as it can get stressful to start writing all your letters after mid-year in December

- Have as many people read over your letter of intent as possible (preceptors, teachers, current residents) - look for patterns of advice/input people are giving & decide what you want to incorporate.

## 2. Narrowing your list, Applying to & Ranking Programs:

- Every program has different due dates, but you essentially have to submit all the applications at once, so start working on them as soon as you can.
- Make sure you have the funds available for all of your applications at the time you're ready to submit, because you have to pay for all of them at that time.
- Always apply to a wide variety of programs - reach & safety programs, community & large academic hospitals, etc. - You can always decline an interview, but it is much harder to find a "back-up" program in Phase II, since many of those programs have already matched.
  - Do not be afraid to apply to "reach" programs, because you never know what kind of people a program is looking for (it's not always the highest GPA/most leadership experience).
    - "I had 3 reach programs on my list and got interviews at all 3. It's worth sending in the application because you never know what they're looking for."
- Try not to limit your search to a certain geographical location, if you can. Research and look into smaller community hospitals that are not as well known as some of the other bigger programs, but still have a great program run by very intelligent people.
  - However, keep distance, travel, and your comfort in mind before applying to programs in new locations - make sure you can see yourself being able to live there for a year.
- Consider if you want to do a PGY2:
  - Sometimes, it's really hard to narrow down programs at all, so this can be a helpful way to refine your selections.
  - If the answer is "yes" or "probably" -tailor your search to programs that have a PGY2 in what you're interested in, so you leave the option open to 'early commit' and save yourself the travel and stress during your PGY1
- Ranking programs: it will not benefit you to consider how each program will rank you. Instead -
  - Start with a blank list prior to your first interview, and after you go on each interview, add the program to your list above or below programs you visited previously, based on your gut feeling. You can go back later and compare the programs more logistically, but it is good to have a record of that "gut" feeling of how programs compared to one another.

## 3. Interview Advice

- Schedule the programs you are most excited about in the middle
  - They become a lot easier and less stressful after the first 1-2 are over, but you may be burned out by the time you get to your last few.
- Researching Interview Questions:
  - Many programs follow the "Mini-Mental Interview" format. There is published literature on this process.

- Google typical interview questions and practice your answers out loud as much as possible!
- Ask upperclassmen you know if they have a list of questions for which they prepared. If you get a list from a few different people, you will have a variety of questions to practice.
- ASHP has valuable links with common questions. In general, it is important to think about occasions during your APPE rotations that showed off your abilities (i.e. a time you showed initiative, a time you problem solved, a time you had to work with others, your best pharmacy intervention, etc)
- In general, if you have about 6-8 stories about various experiences that you handled well/are proud of, you can keep using the same examples/stories in multiple interviews. Interviews get easier as you go on more!
- There are lots of great resources for example questions - Reddit is actually a great source. Prepare as much as you can for the negative behavioral questions!
- I only had 2 interviews where I was asked an "abstract" question; there isn't a correct answer, but whatever you say, make it thoughtful.
- Clinical components:
  - Don't stress too much about the clinical cases - they're really just trying to assess your ability to think critically and see how you handle a situation in which you don't know the answer.
  - I personally purchased my RxPrep book in December. Before interviews, I would study big topics like anticoagulation, diabetes, hypertension. This was SO helpful in completing clinical cases. I encountered diabetes, intracranial hemorrhage reversal on warfarin, NSTEMI, etc. Most students felt as though studying was unnecessary, but everyone is different, and it eased my nerves.
- Remember to interview them & ask questions:
  - The hardest part of interviews is hands down having enough questions to ask during the interview day- you will get asked this on average 5-10 different times during the day, and if you don't have questions prepared, it can be awkward.
  - It helps to look specifically at who is interviewing you on your itinerary and come up with some topics and questions that are related to their area of interest.
    - There was a good document online that I found using google that provided example questions for each type of interviewer (RPD, preceptor, resident).
  - Know the specifics of each program really well - Do not ask questions that you should know the answer to by reading about their program!
  - Get a feel from the current residents. Their body language and attitude towards the program will help determine if it is a good fit for you.
- Know yourself well:
  - In terms of how you work well, what environments you like, your connection with people on a team, etc.
  - Reflect on how your goals and skill sets match each program
  - Do not lie or over exaggerate things
  - Don't forget to be a normal person! They are also people - don't be afraid to make small talk or jokes when appropriate!
- Know your CV in and out:
  - Interviewers will ask you specific things about activities listed on your CV - do not forget what you did and what it was about!



- Do a CV review and really fine comb your CV for applications, to re-familiarize yourself with your CV. Really think about what you want to highlight.
- Make sure you go into every interview recognizing that most people you meet with don't have your application materials memorized. Talk about those great experiences again, so they can now put a face to application.
- If you did a case presentation or journal club, review it to refresh your memory.
- If you did research, be able to speak to your role, how information was gathered, what worked well/didn't go as planned.
- Stay on top of your portfolio. There were a lot of questions I was able to speak to because I could think back to certain pieces of evidence I included.
- Have a plan for if you don't match
  - I was asked at a majority of my interviews what my plan was, given I don't match this year.

## Pharmacy Practice (20)

### Interview Day Structure:

- Shortest interviews were around 4-5 hours and longest ones were 8 hours.
- Interviews included a brief overview, meeting with preceptors, a series of panel interviews (30-45 mins long), a clinical case and/or a presentation, lunch with current residents, a tour of the facilities, and an one-on-one meeting with the RPD
- Most interviews were with different pharmacy personnel (preceptors, administration, RPD, residents) all day. All of my interviews had some sort of component to test your clinical skills (either a patient case presentation, clinical exam, or solving/presenting a clinical case).
- I didn't have any group interviews with multiple candidates - however, I was often interviewed by two or more pharmacists at a time, which was considered a "group interview".
- Some programs also offer a dinner with the residents the night before the interview. All of the dinners I attended were casual and extremely helpful.

### Details about Clinical Case Experience:

- Variety of clinical formats:
  - Some interviews provide you with a written case and allowed you to use a computer or a drug reference book (know how to use an index to your advantage, as this is something we rarely/never have to do in school)
  - Some interviews provide you a written case, give you time to work it up (with or without materials), and then have you present it orally to a group of pharmacists.
  - Be prepared to answer additional questions. Some interviews will include "random" clinical questions that aren't necessarily related to a larger case.
- Example Format:
  - All of my cases were given on the spot. Typically, we had 20 minutes to review the case and make a plan. The next 10 minutes was spent giving recommendations.
    - Don't be surprised if they ask you questions related to the case. Ex: which of the medications on the patient's home list require renal dose adjustment? You're not expected to get every single point for these, but try to highlight every problem you're able to and give a reasonable recommendation for each.
    - Try to address every disease state even if it is at goal and add what you want to monitor and at what interval. Be sure to include goals for your monitoring.
    - When making recommendations here, make them concise and useful to the "provider". This means indication, drug, dose, route, frequency, duration, goals for efficacy and safety monitoring.
- Content to Review:
  - I tried to prepare beforehand by reviewing RxPrep's chapters on common disease states for a brief overview and then delving in deeper by reading society guidelines.
  - I listened to RxPrep videos on anticoag, diabetes, HTN, hyperlipidemia, thyroid disorders, and heart failure while I was driving to interviews
  - The majority of cases were on CAP, but I also saw cases on UTIs, anticoagulation (prophylaxis and treatment), ACS, and stroke.
  - Three of my programs had cases, and all of them were cardiology focused (STEMI, stroke, HF exacerbation).
  - Know the basics of pneumonia, UTIs, and anticoagulation, a fib, diabetes, geriatrics.
- There will be stuff that you don't know the answer for, which is fine.

- At that point you'll just walk them through your rationale of approaching that problem and citing resources and guidelines you would look into

**Details about Presentation Experience:**

- If you have to do a presentation, make it look nice:
  - Prepare good transitions; Include adequate but limited text
  - Make good eye contact with everyone in the room
  - Make sure you practice and have the time limit down
- Some will require a presentation about yourself, to get to know you better:
  - It's okay to make it fun and personal - add (appropriate) photos in!
  - The presentations required me to expand on examples of my best work.
- I used old presentations I had done during my APPEs, and shortened or lengthened them
- Prepare and finalize the presentation as early in advance as possible, as it is impressive to not use notes during the presentation
- Offer to follow up on one to two items (i.e. a question that was asked that you were not confident on the answer)
  - Be sure to follow up with a short email (one paragraph) with a reference or two - that small effort shows you're invested.

**Required to give a presentation:** 19/20 (95%)

**Required to solve a case:** 20/20 (100%)

**ARCO participation:** Pharmacotherapy Scholars (30%), Global Health (10%), Pediatrics (10%)

**Faculty Mentors Utilized for Preparation:**

- Dr. Hall (CV Review)
- Dr. Benedict (CV Review)
- Dr. Skledar (CV Review)
- Dr. Connor (CV review, LOI)
- Dr. Rebecca Watson
- Dr. Schonder (mock interview)
- Dr. Smithburger (mock interview, CV Review, LOI)
- Dr. Korenoski (CV Review, LOI)
- Dr. Benedict (mock interview)
- Dr. Coons (mock interview)
- Dr. Horn

## Community Pharmacy / Ambulatory Care (4)

### Interview Day Structure:

- Of the 11 interviews I had, I think about 50% were half-day interviews (my favorite and I think make the most sense), 45% were full day, and 1 was one hour.
- Normally you go and they discuss the program for about 30 min - 1 hour, you have interview rounds (panel, one on one), there will be some sort of tour, and then maybe a case at some point, finishing with an interview with the RPD.

### Details about Presentation Experience:

- “I applied to amb-care focused places and a lot of VAs, and with the 11 interviews I had, I only had 1 pharmacy-related presentation to give (~15 min) and 1 non-pharmacy related presentation to give (5 min), which they informed me of beforehand.”
  - For the pharmacy-related case, I adapted a case presentation I did in Block 6.
  - For the 5 min. informal, non-pharmacy presentation I gave, I threw it together about 2 weeks before and ran through it the day before.
- “I was told to choose an ambulatory care topic beforehand and present on it. I came with slides printed just in case, which I ended up needing.”

### Details about Clinical Case Experience:

- It's exactly like a Capstone:
  - They give you a patient case on a sheet of paper, and you have so many minutes to write a note or justifiable recommendation.
  - Then, you present your recommendations to the interviewer, who may ask follow-up questions.
- Clinical cases are catered to the type of residency you are going into, so my amb care ones had diabetes, hypertension, and UTI type of questions
- They don't necessarily care about the right answer, but they want to know your thought process. So if you don't know what to do, explain why.
  - Make sure you know which resources are appropriate to reference and how to best incorporate that into your answer.

**Required to give a presentation:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  (75%)

**Required to solve a case:**  $\frac{4}{4}$  (100%)

**Required to answer clinical questions:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  (74%)

**ARCO participation:** Global Health (50%), CLIP (25%)

### Faculty Mentors Utilized for Preparation:

- Dr. Conor (CV/ LOI)
- Dr. Stevenson (CV/LOI)
- Dr. Smithburger (CV interview)
- Dr. K Empey

## Pharmacy Administration (1)

### Interview Day Structure:

- Most of my interviews were either half days (4 hours long) or full days (8 hours long)
- The most interviewers I had on one day was 23 different people, but the average was around 10 interviewers.
- One of my interviews had a dinner the night before, with current residents

### Details about Presentation Experience:

- I had the task to "present for 20 minutes on a pharmacy-related topic", and this was given to me with my offer to interview, about 3 weeks before the interview:
  - I developed a totally new presentation on a topic that was an interesting pharmacy topic, but I also tied it into my own personal medical journey.
  - I practiced it for probably 5 hours - I had the slides memorized, and I did my best to think of questions they would ask me.
  - I highly recommend practicing as much as you can and paying attention to questions they might ask you about pharmacotherapies.
- **Required to give a presentation:** 1/1 (100%)
- **Required to solve a case:** 1/1 (100%)

## ***Words of Encouragement!***

- ★ "YOU ARE MORE COMPETITIVE THAN YOU THINK! I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT I WOULDN'T GET A RESIDENCY, AND I DEFINITELY APPLIED TO TOO MANY PLACES AND ENDED UP WITH TOO MANY SAFETY PROGRAMS THAT I REALLY WASN'T EXCITED ABOUT."
- ★ NO ONE CAN ACCURATELY SAY FOR SURE WHICH PROGRAMS WILL BE 'REACH' VERSUS 'SAFETY' - "I MATCHED WITH MY TOP CHOICE, YET DIDN'T RECEIVE INTERVIEW OFFERS AT 2 OF MY SAFETY PROGRAMS, SO DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF!"
- ★ "IF YOU'RE FEELING DOUBTFUL AT ALL FOR WHATEVER REASON, IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU CAN FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE PITT PHARMACY NAME ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT AND CV MAKES YOU STAND OUT, CONSIDERING THE NUMEROUS NUMBER OF PHARMACY SCHOOLS NOW - H2P!"
- ★ "THERE IS NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS FOR INTERVIEWS- PITT STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS WELL PREPARED AND QUALIFIED!"