

Virtual Pharmacy School Interview **Do's** and **Don'ts**



Congratulations on being invited to a pharmacy school interview!

All colleges and schools of pharmacy require an interview as part of the admissions process and most interviews will take place virtually during the current cycle.

Now's a good time to brush up on how to conduct yourself before, during, and after an online interview.

BEFORE

Your Virtual Interview



- ✓ Be prepared, prompt and seated in front of your webcam **15 minutes before** the interview is scheduled.
- ✓ **Learn** the pharmacy school's mission and curricular and programmatic structure of their Pharm.D. program.
- ✓ Find a **quiet place** where you will have privacy without any distractions.
- ✓ Sit in a **clean, well-lit room** where you can be clearly seen. Choose an area with a neutral background.
- ✓ Visit the **PharmCAS School Directory** and read the interview invitation to prepare for the right type of **interview**.
- ✓ **Research** the school's website so you are familiar with the program and requirements in advance.
- ✓ **Check your equipment.** Use a device that has a secure connection and stable camera.
- ✓ If you plan to use a virtual background, be professional with your selection and **test it early**.
- ✓ Change your **screen name** to your first and last name.
- ✓ Ensure that you pay attention to the **time zone** the interview is scheduled in.
- ✓ Get a **good night's sleep** before your interview.
- ✓ **Communicate your interview schedule** with others you share wi-fi with to avoid connectivity issues.
- ✓ Schedule a recorded **mock interview** session with your school's career center to receive feedback on your body language.
- ✓ Have a **back-up plan** in place in case of equipment failure or wi-fi issues, such as a phone with the meeting login information prepared.



- ✗ Wait until the last minute to get ready or double book yourself.
- ✗ Sit in a busy, noisy common area. Make sure pets are placed in another room.
- ✗ Sit at a window with light coming in behind you or sit in the dark.
- ✗ Expect the school to solve your technical issues.
- ✗ Wait until the last minute to decide on your background.
- ✗ Wait until the last minute to learn the pharmacy school's time zone.
- ✗ Stay up late preparing for your interview.
- ✗ Download large files or movies during your interview. It will slow down your internet bandwidth.
- ✗ Assume you will interview well online without practicing.

DURING

Your Virtual Interview



- ✓ Make sure that your cell phone is **turned off** or on silent.
- ✓ **Dress professionally** from head to toe, focusing on dark or soft colors and shades.
- ✓ Sit up straight in the center of the frame and have your camera at **eye level**.
- ✓ **Be calm** and relax. Speak slowly and clearly.
- ✓ **Be genuine**, be honest, and smile.
- ✓ Treat a video interview just like an **in-person interview**.
- ✓ Be prepared to **show your ID** on camera, if asked.
- ✓ **Listen carefully** to questions and take your time before answering.
- ✓ **Have prepared questions** that reflect you researched the program in advance.
- ✓ Take notes on **paper** verses typing.



- ✗ Have electronic distractions in the room.
- ✗ Dress casually in a t-shirt and jeans.
- ✗ Slouch, sit sideways of the webcam, or have your camera at an awkward angle.
- ✗ Have too many caffeinated drinks that make you jittery.
- ✗ Say what you think the committee members want to hear.
- ✗ Dismiss those not officially interviewing you.
- ✗ Provide information or documentation other than what is requested.
- ✗ Rush or jumble your answers to questions.
- ✗ Take over the interview by responding with lengthy answers.
- ✗ Make avoidable noises like cell phone or computer dings and typing on a keyboard.
- ✗ Ask for information that is easily found on the school's website.

AFTER

Your Virtual Interview



- ✓ Send a **thank you** email.
- ✓ **Reach out** if you have not heard from an admissions representative in two weeks.
- ✓ Practice **patience** as you understand the admissions process.
- ✓ If you promised to **follow-up** with an answer, do it.
- ✓ Always be **humble and polite** during your communications.



- ✗ Have grammatical errors or misspelled names in your email.
- ✗ Have alumni, elected officials, or parents contact the pharmacy school on your behalf.
- ✗ Contact the pharmacy schools too often.
- ✗ Make excuses for why you have not followed-up with a response.
- ✗ Complain about the pharmacy school on social media or in another school interview.