

# 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
- Consider attending regional and/or national residency showcases (virtually) at professional conferences: Fall Meeting for the Pediatric Pharmacy Association, CSHP Seminar and/or ASHP Midyear
- Look to see if programs you are interested in have any Open House events

### 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: Fall 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 and during interviews
- Schedule core 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: Fall 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 for you
  - 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 ASHP's pharmacy online residency centralized application service called 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.phorcas.org/>



### **Prepare for interviews**

- Start early
- Prepare for personal/clinical interview questions
- 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
- 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)

- **\*\*These will be different if held virtually\*\***
- 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](http://www.careerpharm.com/basicPPS-seeker.aspx)

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

# Residency Application Process Timeline

(For candidates applying to 2024-2025 residency) programs)



- Start working on CV and cover letter
- Register for Residency Showcases (e.g. PPA, CSHP)
- Make travel and housing arrangements for clinical meetings (if not virtual)
- Finalize CV (peer-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](http://www.careerpharm.com)

- 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 12/31/23 and submit required fees at [www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/reglink.htm](http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp/reglink.htm)
- Fill out required paperwork in PhORCAS\*

- Completion of interviews
- Narrow down residency choices
- March 1, 2024: Rank Order Lists submission deadline for Phase I of the Match
- March 13, 2024: Results of Phase I of the Match are released to applicants and program directors
- March 14, 2024: 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
- April 3, 2024: Rank Order Lists submission deadline for Phase II of the Match
- April 10, 2024: Results of Phase II are released to applicants and program directors
- April 11, 2024: Unmatched residency candidates will be able to submit applications using PhORCAS to programs with available positions in the post-match process
- April 17, 2024: 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/>