


**Residency Insights:
Getting the inside “scoop”**

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Scoop: being the optimal candidate

- Get involved in activities you are interested in that will look good on your resume; focus on leadership activities whenever possible
- Professional student organizations will allow you to network with residency program directors and preceptors
- Do your homework when evaluating residency programs – use the ASHP residency director, talk to mentors, past residents, think “outside the box” (i.e. Chicago)
- You should strongly consider interviewing at 4-5 programs
- Prepare thoughtful questions for your interview; practice a strong handshake and direct eye contact!
- Go after residency like you really want it, not something you “have” to do
- Start earlier than you think you need to on applications, CV, and letters

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Scoop: finding the right program for you

- Go to ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting to talk to residency programs; you may want to consider participating in the Personal Placement Service (PPS) to interview for programs (both 1st and 2nd year)
- Determine what you are most interested in (or make a short list) and look for programs with options in those areas; try to talk to the preceptors or PGY2s in those areas at midyear or other showcase.
- Determine what type of hospital you want and ask how pharmacy is involved in clinical decision making (teaching hospital, one strongly affiliated with a school of pharmacy, community, managed care, etc)
- Examine the list of required rotations to make sure those are all interesting to you or if there are ones that are missing
- Look at expectations within the residency including staffing, on call time, teaching responsibilities
- Look at licensing requirements for all the states you wish to apply to
- Do NOT rank any program that you could not imagine being in.

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