

# Pharmacy School Confidential: An Insider's Guide to Getting In, Getting out, and Getting the Most from the Experience

By Jennifer G Schnellmann PhD



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This book is for anyone actively pursuing enrollment in a school of pharmacy. However, currently enrolled students will appreciate its relevance, too. This book provides hard-to-find details to sharpen your sense of what is important to pharmacy school faculty. Such knowledge can smooth your transition into professional school, perhaps increase your scholastic performance, and ultimately help you land the perfect job in your field. During my tenure on the faculty of an accredited, 4-year public college of pharmacy in the south, I have had the fascinating role of interviewing prospective applicants, seeing first-year students on "day 1" of class, and watching graduates leave after commencement...and a smidgen of everything in between. In my role in the college, I teach, listen, and learn from our approximately 200 matriculating students each year. My additional role as a first-year student mentor gave me eye-opening insight about the minute details of students' adjustment to pharmacy school and how this affects their personal behaviors and scholastic performance. Furthermore, serving on the college's professional education committee allowed me to see how courses integrate to provide an education worthy of a PharmD. Finally, my work with the admissions committee informed me about student hurdles for entry into pharmacy school. Information is power, but inside information is the true coin of the realm. To this end, this book provides an intriguing glimpse into the professional school educational system that few see "behind the scenes". Specifically, I demystify the pharmacy school admissions process and deconstruct the first, and often most demanding, year of the program. Then, the remaining years and beyond are discussed. Because students seldom receive such direct, honest feedback about college faculty, a generous description of the role of the instructor is given, along with expectations and general pet peeves. Facts about course materials and testing, which are notoriously difficult to obtain, are provided, too. Sources for information within this book chiefly include peerreviewed scientific literature, coupled with a few personal observations. An index allows quick relocation of specific sections, and a bibliography lists all cited sources. Every pharmacy student begins school with high hopes and grand plans, seeking the most for his educational dollar. Graduates want the scientific

knowledge and clinical skills to be perfectly poised as highly desirable potential employees, enjoying multiple job offers. Thus, this book was written to assist students to maximize their return on their relatively brief time spent in professional training.



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