

Questions students are asked in a residency interview

Interview opening questions.

1. Tell me about yourself, and why you are interested in pharmacy.
2. Can you summarize your CV for me?
3. Why are you interested in residency?

Overall professional goals for residency (short term), or career (long term).

4. What about our program drew you to it?
5. Why are you applying to our program? What's your ideal residency and how does this program fit that vision?
6. What are your short term and long-term goals/Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
7. Fast forward to 2024 at your retirement party, what would you want your colleagues to remember about you?

Self-assessment of your current professional abilities and environment where you thrive/ ability to define your professional development needs/interests.

8. What will make you a good resident?
9. Where do you see yourself, experience-wise (how would you evaluate your own clinical abilities at this time, and identify your growth areas).
10. What are some difficulties you had as a student?
11. What was your favorite clinical rotation and why? What was your second most favorite rotation? What is your least favorite?
12. They ask what your strongest and weakest subjects? (Expect to then be asked case questions on those topics.)
13. What kind of research have you done?
14. Do you like to write? Rate your grammatical ability on a scale of 1-10.
15. Do you have any teaching experience not listed in your CV?
16. What is your teaching style? What is your teaching philosophy?
17. How would you incorporate teaching a student into your busy schedule
18. How do you facilitate teaching for your students as a resident preceptor?
19. MANY situational questions... "What would you do if..." and "What did you learn from X experience"?
20. What is your ideal preceptor like?
21. What is your ideal residency? What does the perfect residency program look like to you?
22. What are three things you look for in a residency program?
23. What are some issues you perceive in doing a residency here?
24. What do you imagine a typical day is like?
25. Why don't you want to explore a different setting from the one you've done rotations with already?
26. What are some pharmacy technologies you would want to input
27. What type of leadership qualities does a pharmacist need – which ones do you currently possess and how do you intend to develop the others?
28. How are you with change?
29. What other programs have you interviewed at?
30. Define your strengths/weaknesses questions.
31. What is one characteristic you would change about yourself.
32. What makes you stand out amongst other applicants?
33. How are you different from the other candidates?
34. How will you contribute to our organization?
35. What other programs did you apply to? Why did you apply to them? How many other programs have you interviewed at?

Clinical questions.

36. Talk about one of your journal clubs.
37. Tell me about your presentation on ...
38. Prioritize 3 clinical situations.
39. If you were in code blue and had another one go off, what would you do?
40. A patient comes in with hypotension. What do you do?

41. You have a patient who has been on Lovenox and Warfarin for 5 days already. The patient is still subtherapeutic. What do you do?
42. Patient comes in w/ hypotension, what do you do? (In community setting)
43. Hypokalemia - patient has K = 3, what do you do? When to start IV drip?
44. Patient is taking Fluoxetine, birth control pills, Saint John's Wort and has an amox Rx - do you fill it?
45. What are some concerns about switching between two drugs in the same class?
46. It is July 5th and patient comes in to the outpatient clinic for checkup. INR = 4.7 -- what do you tell him?
47. Expect medication reconciliation questions.
48. Please identify which drugs need to be dose adjusted renally (a list is provided)
49. What are 5 drugs to avoid in the elderly - Dr. Beers' criteria. What are 5 factors that influence PT?
50. Can you give me the pros & cons for using a PTT vs. factor 10a to monitor heparin use?
51. What can cause QT prolongation other than drugs?
52. HTN - 4 lifestyle modifications; goal BP values in the general population vs. DM patient.
53. CHF - drugs, treatment
54. Counsel a patient on Warfarin.
55. Written "Pharmacist Competency Exam" - case study on a patient with DM, seizure disorder, Asthma. Questions also included Phenytoin level, nausea, Diabetes meds, Asthma meds.
56. Written questions asking you to match the infectious organism with the antibiotic of choice.
57. Written calculation questions: for example - convert % into mcg/mL or Dobutamine drip calculation.
58. CAP - etiology, case-study, select drugs, counseling points evolving into HAP
59. DM patient - treatment, goals of lipids, monitoring, counseling.
60. Linezolid for renally insufficient patient to treat MRSA cellulites. Name cephalosporins and coverage.
61. Know Heparin, HIT, Xigris, Nessirtide, and Anticoagulation.
62. Talk about Febrile Neutropenia, and Amphotericin.
63. Talk about the antibiotic spectrum.
64. What is Gentamicin's goal peak and trough?
65. What do you think about Vioxx
66. Give recommendations on how to prevent ADRs & medication errors in the outpatient & inpatient settings
67. How would you set up an ambulatory clinic for diabetes (or any other long-term diseases)?

Communication skills, conflict and teamwork questions.

68. Name one conflict and tell us how you dealt with it.
69. How do you deal with people you don't get along with?
70. What do you do when someone you work with disagrees with you?
71. Tell me about a difficult situation you encountered with a doctor. How did it end?
72. How do you deal with a student who does not trust or respect you?
73. If you were asked to fill a dose for a baby that is 100x it's regular dose and the fellow has proof that it's okay, would you do it?
74. What would you do if your team did not accept your recommendation? If it was a life threatening situation, and you did your research, and they still don't accept it – what then?
75. What would you do if you were faced with a medication error where the patient is given the wrong medication?
76. Would you say you're a leader or a follower?
77. Do you see yourself working in a team?
78. What is your role in your current rotation?
79. How do you deal with an uncomfortable situation?
80. Tell me about one hardship you faced during a clinical rotation and how you handled it.
81. Describe a hasty (and perhaps incorrect) decision you made, and how you handled it.
82. Describe a time when you were overwhelmed and how you overcame it.
83. Suppose you had an unmotivated student, what would you do as the preceptor?
84. Give one of your most significant clinical interventions during your rotation experience.
85. Tell me a horror story about working community pharmacy. (Remember, of your 3-minute answer, only 30 seconds should be used to describe the situation – the rest should focus on focus on your response on what you thought about it, how you handled it, or what you learned from the experience.)
86. What leadership skills that you think pharmacists need and why? (Hint: ability to communicate, address conflict and work in teams probably should be on the list.)

Questions that explore your background, perspective, values, or definition/philosophy of an excellent clinician.

87. What is the last non-academic book you read?

88. What do you do on your own time?

89. What do you do for fun?

90. What is one word to describe yourself?

91. If you were not in pharmacy, what would you do?

92. Who do you admire and why? Who do you admire the most of all of your preceptors?

93. Describe an accomplishment you are most proud of?

94. What is your most important/significant clinical intervention during your rotation experience. Why was it meaningful to you?

Quirky questions that also seek to understand your values, interests and perspective.

95. What is your most prized possession? If you were a drug, which drug would you be and why?

96. If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?

97. What makes you a better applicant than others?

98. What do professional organizations do?

100. Do you think grades that anything to do with how well you perform in clerkships

101. Do you think grades that anything to do with how well you perform in your career?

102. If you were stuck on Mars, what 2 drugs would you bring?

103. Is there anything we have not talked about that you would like to discuss?

104. Commitment to the profession/Understanding of the profession

105. What was the last pharmacy related article that you read recently?

106. What do you do outside of school to learn and contribute to the profession of pharmacy?

107. What are the implications of the recently enacted Medicare Modernization Act that took effect in 2006?

108. What is one interesting issue facing pharmacy today?

109. What do you think is a major problem facing our profession?

110. What do professional organizations do?