

# TOURO UNIVERSITY

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 60 minutes

# OF INTERVIEWERS: Two faculty members

TYPE OF INTERVIEW: Group (about five students)

LOCATION: Vallejo (Northern CA)

## INTERVIEW AGENDA

9 to 9:10am: Director of Admissions reviews the agenda for the day

9.10 to 9.55am: Sample Writing Assignment (45minutes min)

9.55 to 10am: Quick Break

10 to 10.15am: Financial Aid presentation

10.15 to 11am: Meet with the Dean of the College of Pharmacy

11 to Noon: Interviews

Noon to 1pm: Tour of Campus with current Touro students

1 to 1.30pm: Box lunch with the Director of Admissions. Exit Conference.

## INTERVIEW GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1) Where do you see yourself in 20 years?
- 2) Tell me about a volunteer experience.
- 3) How do you deal with patients who buy medications over the Internet? (hardest)
- 4) How would you handle a patient who speaks Swahili?
- 5) What are some of your passions beyond pharmacy and academics?

## ESSAY QUESTION

Four essay prompts and you pick one to answer. Choose the one you can answer best. For any interview essay, don't pick the hardest question because you think that you'll get bonus points. Pick the one you feel most comfortable with (even if it sounds "easy") because you'll be able to come up with strong evidence to support your points. I think I wrote 3-4 pages on yellow pad paper.

"The Katrina hurricane showed how the communication system in the United States could be better utilized. Pharmacists from different states flew into Louisiana and other disaster states to help citizens with their medication regimens. Imagine if there was an earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area. What ways can pharmacists be involved if such a disaster occurred?"

## OVERALL IMPRESSION

Touro is currently trying to become accredited. Last year (2005) was their first pharmacy class. I don't think there should be any problem with Touro getting accreditation status. They have a strong D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) program, have a sister school in New York and the Dean told me that they have the money to make sure that they successfully reach each step of the process. Every new pharmacy school/program doesn't want to be the next Hawaii fiasco.

Also, don't have high expectations about the aesthetics of the school because of the major construction surrounding the school (i.e. it still looks like a former shipyard). When driving, get there early because detours are everywhere. What sets Touro apart from other schools, however, is the fact that they have a "Two Plus Two" program where students get TWO years of clerkship (versus the traditional fourth year clerkship of other pharmacy schools). The staff and students were extremely friendly and welcoming. It's a small school environment where everyone will know each other's names and become close knit. Coming from UCLA, it was hard to imagine myself there because of the small facilities. But remember that if you want to get into pharmacy school, you apply everywhere and then critique the curriculum, and find the one that fits best with you.

If you're a UCLA student and apply early, you have a good chance of getting into this school. The average GPA last year was 3.1 but I'm sure that stat increased this year since more people applied. As my first interview, I was somewhat nervous because I didn't know what to expect. You'll find that some people will try to dominate the interview (not good) and others won't say a word (not good either!). You need to say something because you're trying to sell yourself to the school. At the same time, don't talk so much that you only hear your voice the whole time. It's disrespectful and not professional. Pace yourself. Trust me when I say it's okay to take a minute and think about your answer first (I did that all the time). The most difficult thing was keeping eye contact with everyone in the group (including the other students) and not zoning out when other people talked. I found myself doing a lot of the latter. =)

Good first interview. This interview helped prepare me for my USC interview. Only negative thing about Touro (besides the appearance) is the \$2,000 deposit. It's a great way to grab the students who are serious about attending Touro but, likewise, it plays on the insecurities of students. You find out whether you got in two weeks after your interview. Then you have two weeks to accept/decline the offer and send in your deposit. A lot of my friends put down the deposit (me included) because our parents decided that security was more important. Essentially, you have to decide if \$2,000 is a solid investment for peace of mind.