



PharmCAS
Pharmacy College Application Service

2020-2021

PharmCAS Applicant Survey Results

July 2021

2020-2021 PharmCAS Applicant Survey Results

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1. Sex

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Male	346	24.2%
Female	1073	75.1%
Decline to State	10	0.7%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results

2. Hispanic/Latino

Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic/Latino Origin?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Yes	202	14.1%
No	1203	84.2%
No Response	24	1.7%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1405 responses in 1429 results

3. Race

Please select one or more of the following groups in which you consider yourself to be a member.

Result	Responses		Percentage of Respondents
	N	Percentage	
American Indian or Alaska Native	34	2.3%	2.4%
Asian	399	27.5%	27.9%
Black or African American	282	19.4%	19.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	17	1.2%	1.2%
White	721	49.6%	50.5%
TOTAL	1453	100.0%	101.7%

1453 responses in 1429 results

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

4. Academic Status

What was your academic status at the time of application?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
College Freshman	20	1.4%
College Sophomore	185	12.9%
College Junior	186	13.0%
College Senior	367	25.7%
College Graduate	382	26.7%
Post-baccalaureate Student	159	11.1%
Master's or Ph.D. Degree Student	51	3.6%
Master's or Ph.D. Degree Graduate	55	3.8%
Other	24	1.7%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results

5. Pharm4Me Website

Have you ever visited the Pharmacy Is Right for Me website?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Yes	340	23.8%
No	903	63.2%
Not Sure	186	13.0%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results

6. Pham4Me Social Media

Did you see one or more @Pharm4Me posts on social media (Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook)?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Yes	160	11.2%
No	1089	76.2%
Not Sure	180	12.6%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results

7. Influencers

Who encouraged you to consider pharmacy as a career? Check all that apply.

Result	Responses		Percentage of Respondents
	N	Percentage	
College Advisor	169	5.2%	11.8%
College Professor	149	4.6%	10.4%
Current PharmD Student	273	8.4%	19.1%
Family Member (Non-Pharmacist)	677	20.7%	47.4%
Family Member (Pharmacist)	242	7.4%	16.9%
Friend	359	11.0%	25.1%
High School Counselor	62	1.9%	4.3%
High School Teacher	109	3.3%	7.6%
Pharmacist	496	15.2%	34.7%
Pharmacy Researcher	19	0.6%	1.3%
Pharmacy School Faculty	50	1.5%	3.5%
PharmCAS Applicant	40	1.2%	2.8%
Pre-Pharmacy or Health Professions Advisor	112	3.4%	7.8%
Pre-Pharmacy Club or Society	100	3.1%	7.0%
Other Health Professional (e.g., physician)	137	4.2%	9.6%
None	167	5.1%	11.7%
Other	102	3.1%	7.1%
TOTAL	3263	100.0%	228.3%

3263 responses in 1429 results

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

8. Age of Career Decision

At what age did you decide you wanted to become a pharmacist?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Ages 0-10:	29	2.0%
Ages 11-15:	192	13.4%
Ages 16-20:	724	50.7%
Ages 21-25:	241	16.9%
Ages 26-30:	109	7.6%
Ages 31-35:	56	3.9%
Ages 36+:	29	2.0%
No Answer	49	3.4%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1380 responses in 1429 results
 Responses were manually grouped by age.
 Mean Age: 19.9; Median Age: 18

9. Educational Indebtedness

If you borrowed to help pay for your college expenses, please estimate how much you currently owe:

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
No debt	454	31.8%
Less than \$5,000	80	5.6%
\$5,001-\$25,000	268	18.8%
\$25,001-\$50,000	172	12.0%
\$50,001-\$75,000	79	5.5%
\$75,001-\$100,000	55	3.8%
\$100,001-\$125,000	22	1.5%
\$125,001-\$150,000	12	0.8%
\$150,001-\$175,000	10	0.7%
\$175,001-\$200,000	12	0.8%
More than \$200,000	13	0.9%
Unknown debt amount	31	2.2%
No response	221	15.5%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

1208 responses in 1429 results

10. Pharmacy Career Choice

Why did you choose to pursue a career as a pharmacist? Check all that apply.

Result	Responses		Percentage of Respondents
	N	Percentage	
COVID-19 and role of pharmacists in fighting the pandemic	454	3.0%	31.8%
Desire to work as part of the healthcare team	1137	7.5%	79.6%
Experience at a pharmacy camp	104	0.7%	7.3%
Family member or friend is a pharmacist	387	2.6%	27.1%
Family member or friend is in pharmacy school	187	1.2%	13.1%
Family member or friend suggested pharmacy school	337	2.2%	23.6%
Interest in direct patient care	837	5.5%	58.6%
Interest in helping people	1192	7.9%	83.4%
Interest in knowing how medicines work in the body	1124	7.4%	78.7%
Interest in making a difference in the world	924	6.1%	64.7%
Interest in pharmaceutical research	599	4.0%	41.9%
Interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) careers	721	4.8%	50.5%
Interest in healthcare fields that are less physically or medically intrusive with patients	641	4.2%	44.9%
Opportunities for advanced and specialized practice (e.g., oncology pharmacy)	552	3.6%	38.6%
Pharmacists are essential employees	632	4.2%	44.2%
Positive life experience with a pharmacist	502	3.3%	35.1%
Potential for leadership on the healthcare team	509	3.4%	35.6%
Prestige of earning a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree	556	3.7%	38.9%
Prestige of a pharmacist career	444	2.9%	31.1%
Job flexibility	594	3.9%	41.6%
Job geographic mobility	298	2.0%	20.9%
Job salary	712	4.7%	49.8%
Job security	592	3.9%	41.4%
Work/life balance	694	4.6%	48.6%
Exposure to pharmacy as a pharmacy technician	409	2.7%	28.6%
Other (briefly describe)	22	0.1%	1.5%
TOTAL	15160	100.0%	1060.9%

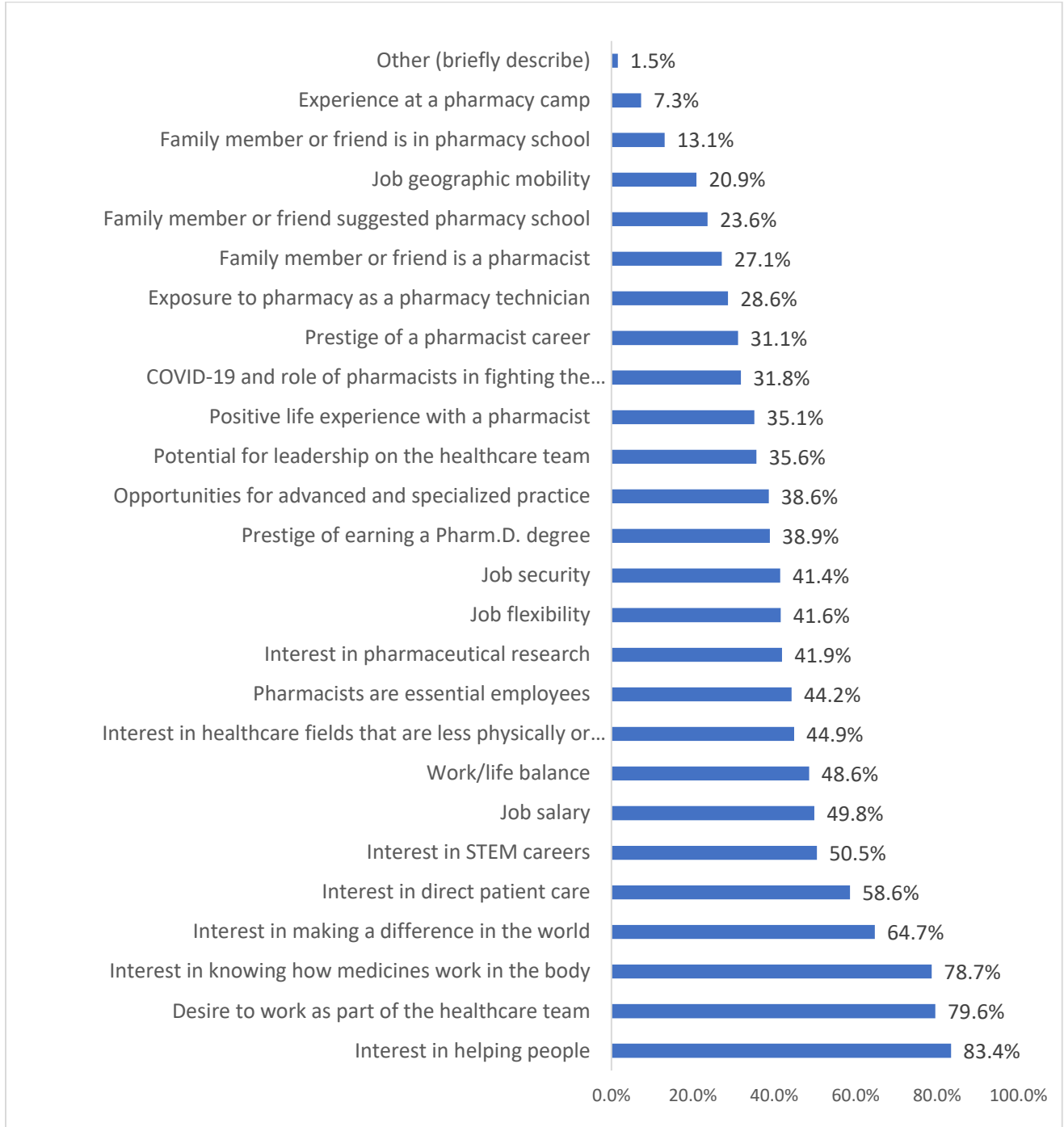
15160 responses in 1429 results

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

See also the graph on the next page.

11. Pharmacy Career Choice (Graph)

Why did you choose to pursue a career as a pharmacist? Check all that apply.



15160 responses in 1429 results

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Graph reflects the percentage of survey respondents and the table on the previous page.

12. Applicant Decision Factors in Pharmacy School Selection Process

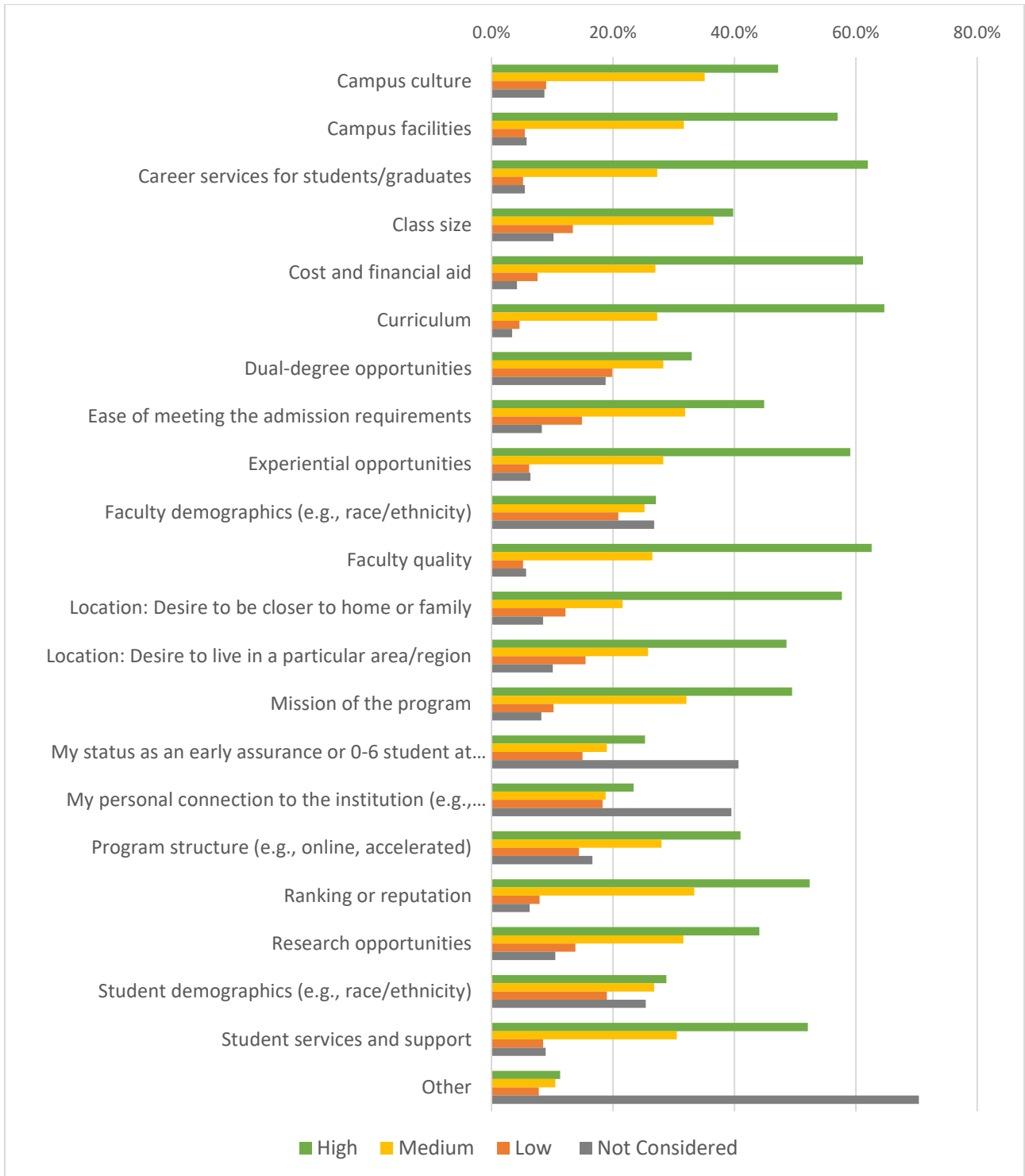
Please rate the importance of each factor in your decision to apply to selected pharmacy schools.

Result	High	Medium	Low	Not Considered	TOTAL
Campus culture	47.2%	35.1%	9.0%	8.7%	100.0%
Campus facilities	57.0%	31.7%	5.5%	5.8%	100.0%
Career services for students/graduates	62.0%	27.3%	5.2%	5.5%	100.0%
Class size	39.8%	36.6%	13.4%	10.2%	100.0%
Cost and financial aid	61.2%	27.0%	7.6%	4.2%	100.0%
Curriculum	64.7%	27.3%	4.6%	3.4%	100.0%
Dual-degree opportunities	33.0%	28.3%	19.9%	18.8%	100.0%
Ease of meeting the admission requirements	44.9%	31.9%	14.9%	8.3%	100.0%
Experiential opportunities	59.1%	28.3%	6.2%	6.4%	100.0%
Faculty demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity)	27.1%	25.2%	20.9%	26.8%	100.0%
Faculty quality	62.6%	26.5%	5.2%	5.7%	100.0%
Location: Desire to be closer to home or family	57.7%	21.6%	12.2%	8.5%	100.0%
Location: Desire to live in a particular area/region	48.6%	25.8%	15.5%	10.1%	100.0%
Mission of the program	49.5%	32.1%	10.2%	8.2%	100.0%
My status as an early assurance or 0-6 student at the program	25.3%	19.0%	15.0%	40.7%	100.0%
My personal connection to the institution (e.g., alma mater)	23.4%	18.8%	18.3%	39.5%	100.0%
Program structure (e.g., online, accelerated)	41.0%	28.0%	14.4%	16.6%	100.0%
Ranking or reputation	52.4%	33.4%	7.9%	6.3%	100.0%
Research opportunities	44.1%	31.6%	13.8%	10.5%	100.0%
Student demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity)	28.8%	26.8%	19.0%	25.4%	100.0%
Student services and support	52.1%	30.5%	8.5%	8.9%	100.0%
Other	11.3%	10.5%	7.8%	70.4%	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

See graph on the next page.

13. Applicant Decision Factors in Pharmacy School Selection Process (Graph)



1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

Graph reflects the percentage of survey respondents and the table on the previous page.

14. Reasons Applicants Chose Not to Apply to Schools

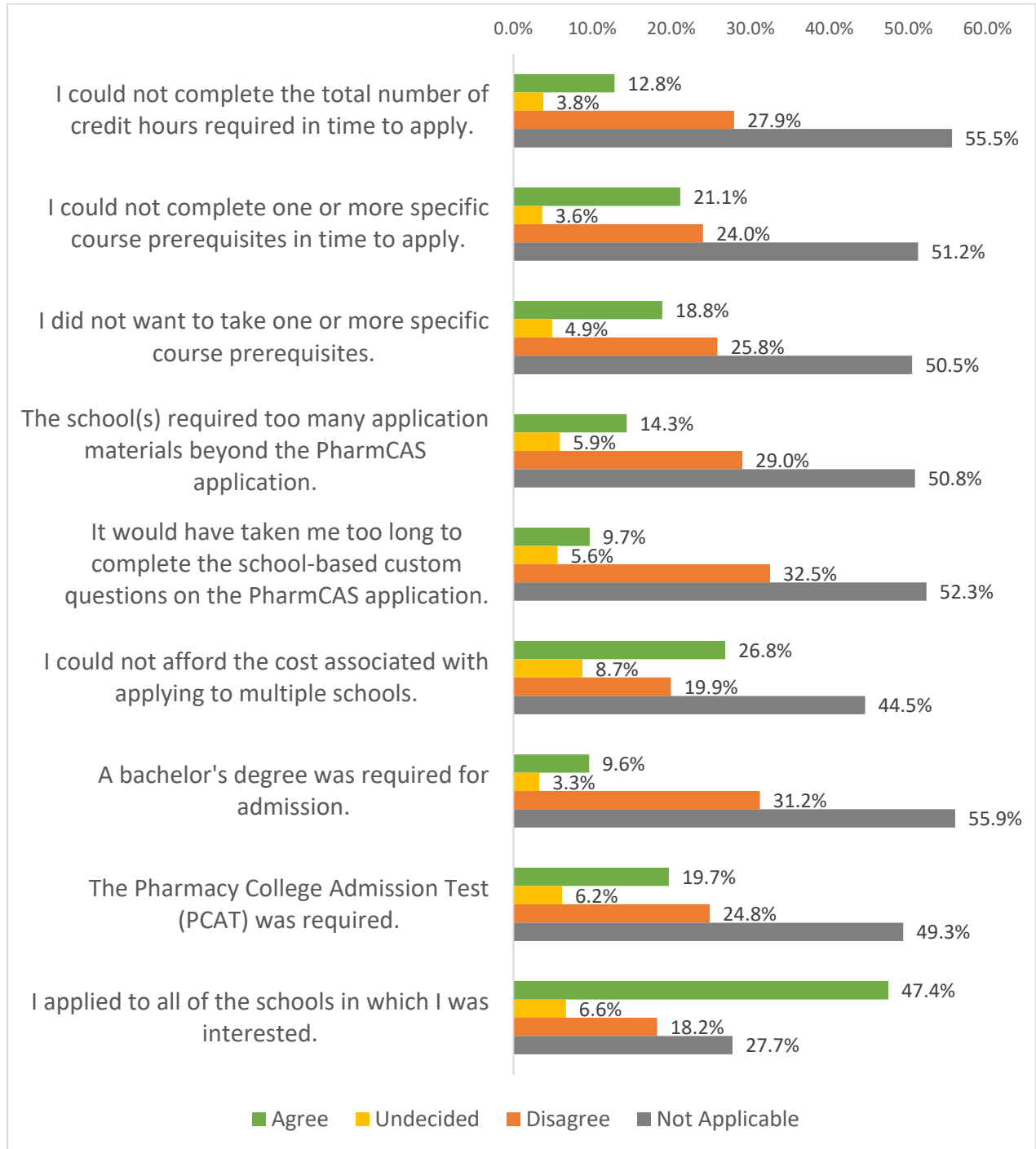
I was interested in particular pharmacy schools and later decided NOT to apply to them because...

	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	N/A	TOTAL
I could not complete the total number of credit hours required in time to apply.	12.8%	3.8%	27.9%	55.5%	100.0%
I could not complete one or more specific course prerequisites in time to apply.	21.1%	3.6%	24.0%	51.2%	100.0%
I did not want to take one or more specific course prerequisites.	18.8%	4.9%	25.8%	50.5%	100.0%
The school(s) required too many application materials beyond the PharmCAS application.	14.3%	5.9%	29.0%	50.8%	100.0%
It would have taken me too long to complete the school-based custom questions on the PharmCAS application.	9.7%	5.6%	32.5%	52.3%	100.0%
I could not afford the cost associated with applying to multiple schools.	26.8%	8.7%	19.9%	44.5%	100.0%
A bachelor's degree was required for admission.	9.6%	3.3%	31.2%	55.9%	100.0%
The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) was required.	19.7%	6.2%	24.8%	49.3%	100.0%
I applied to all of the schools in which I was interested.	47.4%	6.6%	18.2%	27.7%	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)
 Table reflects the percentage of responses.
 N/A = Not applicable
 See also graph on the next page.

15. Reasons Applicants Chose Not to Apply to Schools (Graph)

I was interested in particular pharmacy schools and later decided NOT to apply to them because...



1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

Graph reflects the percentage of survey respondents and the table on the previous page.

17. Barriers to the Pharmacy Admissions Process

To what extent do you agree with the following statements.

	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	N/A	TOTAL
I had trouble taking one or more course prerequisites because classes were full before I could register.	21.3%	5.2%	49.8%	23.7%	100.0%
I had trouble taking one or more course prerequisites because the course is not offered at my school or had limited availability.	24.9%	4.5%	47.7%	22.8%	100.0%
COVID-19 impacted my ability to fulfill one or more course prerequisites.	18.3%	8.1%	50.9%	22.7%	100.0%
I had trouble completing one or more course prerequisites due to the other requirements for my major.	16.3%	7.9%	51.2%	24.6%	100.0%
I worked 20+ hours per week while I was taking college classes.	46.4%	4.7%	28.5%	20.4%	100.0%
I had to take classes during an "extra" term (e.g., summer) to complete all of the course prerequisites.	57.0%	4.6%	22.7%	15.6%	100.0%
I had significant family caretaking responsibilities while I was taking college classes.	31.3%	9.4%	39.2%	20.2%	100.0%
The financial hardship of funding my education may limit my ability to complete the program.	23.3%	17.9%	39.3%	19.5%	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

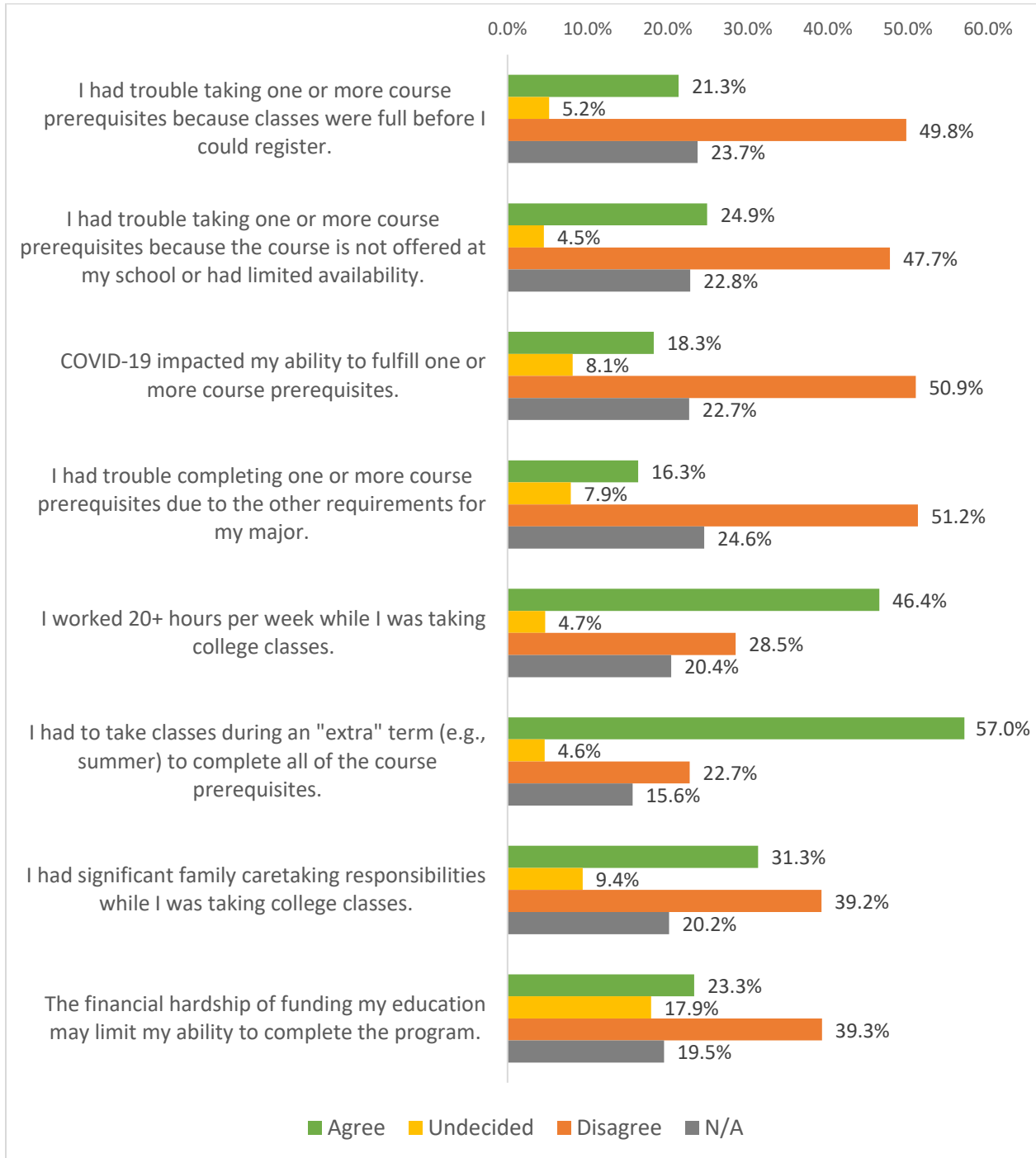
Table reflects the percentage of responses.

N/A = Not applicable

See also graph on the next page.

18. Barriers to the Pharmacy Admissions Process (Graph)

To what extent do you agree with the following statements.



1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

Graph reflects the percentage of survey respondents and the table on the previous page.

19. Impact of Pharmacists on Applicant Perceptions

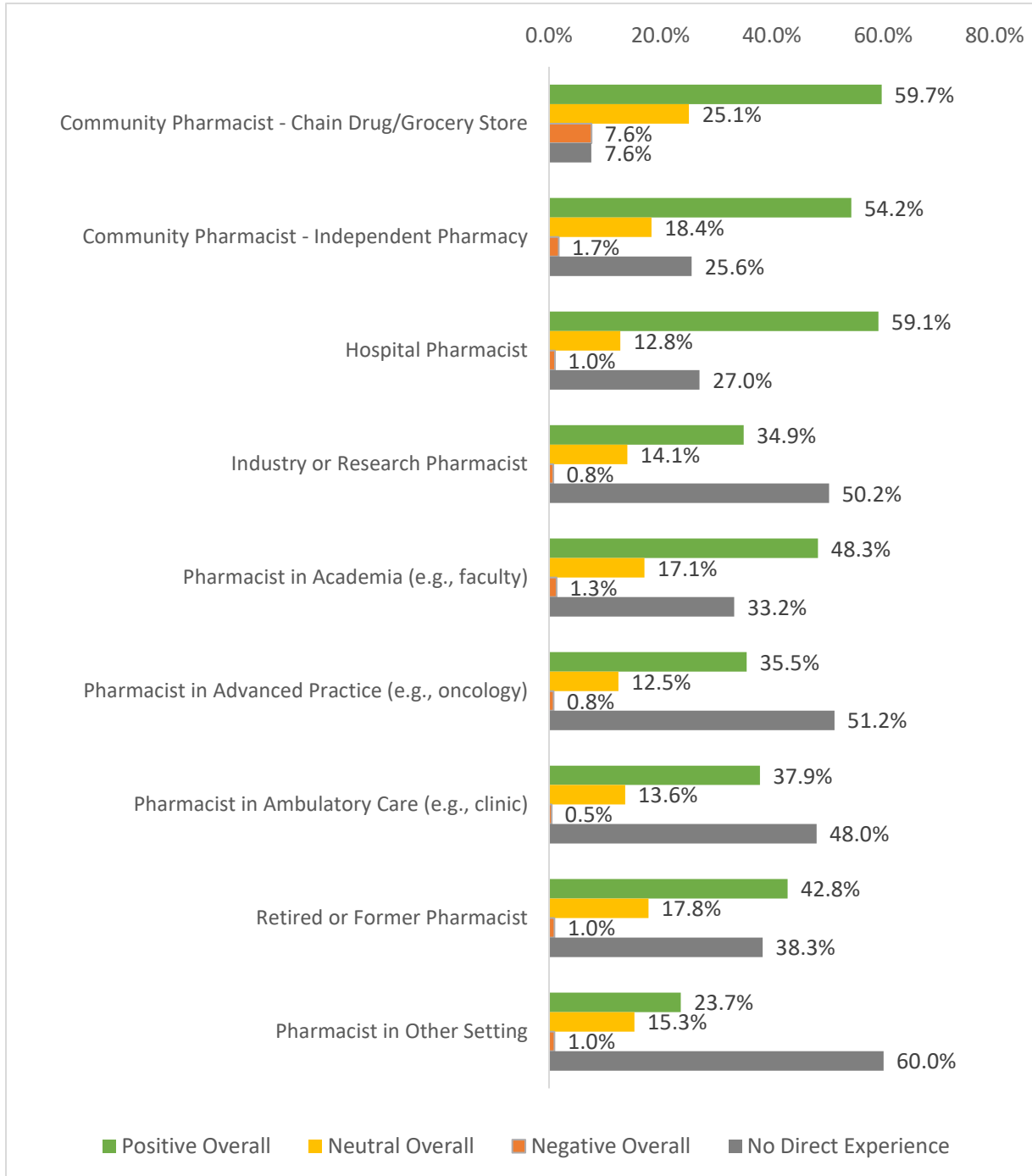
What overall impact have pharmacists in different settings had on your perceptions about the pharmacy profession based on your direct interaction with them? Consider any observation, work, or patient experiences you may have had.

	Positive Overall	Neutral Overall	Negative Overall	No Direct Experience	TOTAL
Community Pharmacist - Chain Drug/Grocery Store	59.7%	25.1%	7.6%	7.6%	100.0%
Community Pharmacist - Independent Pharmacy	54.2%	18.4%	1.7%	25.6%	100.0%
Hospital Pharmacist	59.1%	12.8%	1.0%	27.0%	100.0%
Industry or Research Pharmacist	34.9%	14.1%	0.8%	50.2%	100.0%
Pharmacist in Academia (e.g., faculty)	48.3%	17.1%	1.3%	33.2%	100.0%
Pharmacist in Advanced Practice (e.g., oncology)	35.5%	12.5%	0.8%	51.2%	100.0%
Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care (e.g., clinic)	37.9%	13.6%	0.5%	48.0%	100.0%
Retired or Former Pharmacist	42.8%	17.8%	1.0%	38.3%	100.0%
Pharmacist in Other Setting	23.7%	15.3%	1.0%	60.0%	100.0%

1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)
 Table reflects the percentage of responses.
 See also graph on the next page.

20. Impact of Pharmacists on Applicant Perceptions (Graph)

What overall impact have pharmacists in different settings had on your perceptions about the pharmacy profession based on your direct interaction with them? Consider any observation, work, or patient experiences you may have had.



1429 responses in 1429 results (per row)

Graph = percentage of respondents.

Graph refers to data on previous page.

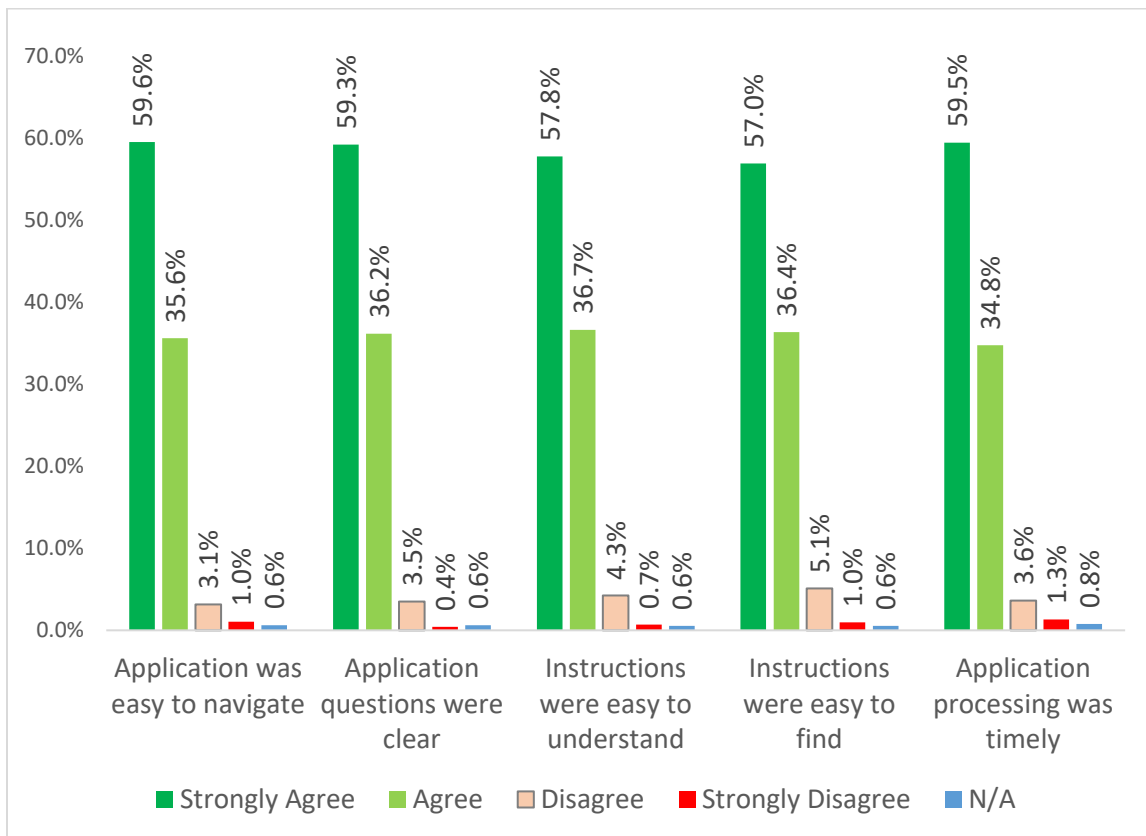
21. Application Process

Choose one answer for each item below. Select "N/A" if no answer or not applicable.

Results	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		N/A		Total
Application was easy to navigate	851	59.6%	509	35.6%	45	3.1%	15	1.0%	9	0.6%	100.0%
Application questions were clear	847	59.3%	517	36.2%	50	3.5%	6	0.4%	9	0.6%	100.0%
Instructions were easy to understand	826	57.8%	524	36.7%	61	4.3%	10	0.7%	8	0.6%	100.0%
Instructions were easy to find	814	57.0%	520	36.4%	73	5.1%	14	1.0%	8	0.6%	100.0%
Application processing was timely	850	59.5%	497	34.8%	52	3.6%	19	1.3%	11	0.8%	100.0%

22. Application Process (Graph)

Choose one answer for each item below. Select "N/A" if no answer or not applicable.



23. How do you rate your overall experience with PharmCAS?

Result	Responses	
	N	Percentage
Excellent	792	55.4%
Good	509	35.6%
Adequate	94	6.6%
Fair	18	1.3%
Poor	12	0.8%
No Answer	4	0.3%
TOTAL	1429	100.0%

24. How do you rate your overall experience with PharmCAS? (Graph)

