

CAS „Pharmaceuticals – From Research to Market“

Essay guide

Goal

The essay is an essential part of the CAS program „Pharmaceuticals – From Research to Market“ (CAS Pharm) and serves as final performance assessment. The essay documents the student's competence development during the program as well as the transfer of acquired knowledge to professional practice/activities.

Choice of topics

The students collect personally relevant documents during the entire program and take notes. After each module, the students summarize their notes in a module report. These reports might serve as basis for the essay.

The module topics can be chosen with a certain freedom according to students' current professional activities and working fields. The topic choice has to be justified. In order to draw crosslinks between the various subjects, students have to choose contents of at least two modules.

Structure and extent

The language and structure of the essay must conform to the standards of academic writing. Academic writing expectations include (i) the organization of ideas and materials, (ii) citation style, correct use of sources, (iii) sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation. The essay is written in English or German and has the following structure:

1. Title page: Name, first name, address, function and company name, date, place, and signature
2. Introduction: Approx. ½ page
3. Reflexion: Approx. 5-6 pages (or 15'000-17'000 characters)
4. Summary: Approx. ½ page
5. Appendix: References / Bibliography, Slides

Reflexion

The reflexion part should be based on course elements (lectures, workshops, plant visits, personal notes). An additional literature research should not be necessary but may be integrated on the reference list with the other citations (website references always with access date).

The author should refer to the course contents by citing systematically all chosen course documents (usually a power point presentation including the slide number). The references are numbered consecutively within the text, beginning with 1. The bibliography/references at the end of the essay list(s) all of the sources you have consulted (incl. module title, presentation title and date of the lecture, name of lecturer). In addition, all referenced slides have to be copied to the appendix.

It is important that the reflection part is not a theoretical essay or summary of a certain topic. It mainly describes the transfer of acquired knowledge during the CAS Pharm to professional activities. The student should illustrate and specify this transfer by providing personal examples.

You should keep general, introductory information to a minimum, it serves as argumentation overview. The actual reflexion (the critical discussion of the practice transfer) must amount to at least 60% of the text.

The following questions may help you to critically discuss gained knowledge and draw personal conclusions:

- Why was a certain course element chosen (lecture, workshop, plant visit)?
- What knowledge was acquired?
- Which competences were achieved?
- How can the newly achieved knowledge be interlinked with existing knowledge?
- What consequences does the newly achieved knowledge have on your present activities? Which initiatives for improvement can be taken?
- Are there any knowledge gaps? If so, where are they? What will you have to further investigate? Which knowledge has to be further extended (e.g. in courses, literature, lecturers...)?

Credit points and Assessment

The amount of work to achieve one credit point (ECTS) is approximately 30 hours. Writing the essay (based on 5 previously written module reports) should lie in this range.

After submission of the essay, the study management performs a formal review. Then a review of content evaluates if a student has critically discussed and reflected the course contents. The essay should document in a clear and comprehensible way which **professional growth** the student has achieved.

The essay is rated as „passed“ or „not passed“. The essay can be repeated once if it is rated „not passed“. You must then adhere to a 6 month period between the first and second submission.

Confidentiality

The study management treats the essays strictly confidential and does not publish them. On request, the program managers sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Submission

The essay should be submitted within half a year after finishing your last module. A written application for a possible deadline extension must be submitted early enough to the study management.

Send your final pdf-version to: postgraduate@pharma.ethz.ch.

After the study management accepted your essay, send a printed and signed paper version to:

ETH Zurich
Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Postgraduate Studies
Vladimir-Prelog-Weg 4
CH-8093 Zurich