

“What do you picture in your head when you hear the word ‘Pharmacist’?” This question has been asked from me to many of my friends throughout my entire collegiate journey. Many of my friends will imply that they picture Pharmacists as a vague category of miracle drug workers; others have said that they picture a health care professional standing behind a counter and giving patients certain medications. Upon further research of my own, I made the sophisticated decision to pursue a life-long journey in Pharmaceuticals.

It was my sophomore year of high school. At this point, I had already received the question in abundance — “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Being a sixteen year old high school student without much of a care in the world, I did not have the sophisticated knowledge to know what I wanted to pursue; however, one chemistry class happened to change that. Throughout my sophomore year of high school, my chemistry class became more and more intriguing as it progressed. I started wanting to actually do my homework and research, and it was this specific class that kickstarted my journey into Pharmacy. Of course, as a sophomore in high school, I did not possess the knowledge I currently have; however, upon further research I began to explore Pharmaceuticals as a career. I began to really enjoy chemistry, and I wanted to have a deeper understanding of it; after all, combined with biology, it explains life impeccably.

Fast forward into my freshman year of college. I was very nervous about taking General Chemistry because it had been two years since I had my high school chemistry class. Upon entering college, I had decided already that I wanted to major in Chemistry. I shaped each semester around pharmacy, as this was the path that I wanted to pursue. As the first semester progressed, I began to exhibit a passion for chemistry; I was excelling on all of my exams, and even had the opportunity to tutor my peers. As humbly as I can state, I have made an ‘A’ on all of my college level chemistry courses due to my understanding and passion for this aspect of study.

Pharmaceutical studies are remarkably interesting. Before college, I never really understood the mechanism of how they work. When I took a microbiology class, I learned certain aspect of pharmaceutical drugs that hooked me. For example, I learned the course of the HIV Virus, and that certain reverse transcriptase inhibitors can block this virus from replicating by mimicking DNA in the human body. I also learned a ton of information regarding immunology, with an interest in vaccines and immunizations. I am still researching pharmacy as a whole, and with each day of research I am gaining new knowledge about the field.

Upon completion of the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters, I had made a name for myself in both the Chemistry and Biology departments. Many students and friends of mine would kindly ask for my assistance in certain subjects, and I would gladly assist them without asking for any kind of payment/compensation. Why did science, in general, become easy for me? Simply put, I understand the dedication it takes to succeed. I love to build my knowledge in both biology and chemistry; there is always more and more that you can learn. This challenged me to be even more dedicated, because I knew that assisting other students so that they could excel in their courses would help them to succeed. In my opinion, when all students are in a focused mindset and willing to learn, the learning environment is much more pure and one will feel much more dedicated. I understand the importance of surrounding oneself with peers who are as dedicated, as this will raise morale and dedication exponentially.

As stated previously, I am no stranger to dedication. In my first semester of college, I had not yet defined my study habits. This lack of studying lead me to receive a B in one of my courses. Ever since I received a B in English I, I challenged myself to make an A on every single college course from here-on out. This challenge to myself has resulted in me receiving the award of President's List a total of three times since then with A's in every course I have currently completed, as well as earning numerous scholarships for my academic success. I am also a member of the honor society Phi Theta Kappa. Also, on July 18,2017, I took the PCAT for

the first time. I studied two months in advance, many times up to eight hours per day. Many peers criticized the copious amounts of studying I endured, and said that I was “frying my brain”; but as humbly as I can state, this dedication lead me to receive a composite score in the 97th percentile, with the 99th percentile in both biology and chemistry, and 94th percentile in Quantitative Reasoning.

It is up to me now to spend hours with hands-on pharmaceutical training. I have recently applied as a Pharmacy Technician Trainee, and just received my license. Upon receiving this license, I plan to receive hands-on training as a Pharmacy Technician. Also, I have contacted Pharmacists in regard to completing a shadowing/internship. I believe that an internship in Pharmacy will prepare me like never before, as I will get to see the day by day lifestyle and working environment that a Pharmacist endures.

Upon acceptance into Pharmacy School, it is my duty to stay up to date with current drug knowledge, policies, and laws regarding pharmacy. I want all of my peers and professors to view me as a supportive member of the pharmaceutical community. I will build rapport with all peers, professors, and Pharmacists during Pharmacy School so that I can be a leader in my community. It is my mission to be a student who is a leader, and one who encourages other students to pursue their dreams. My undergraduate success has provided me with the skillset and knowledge required to be triumphant in Pharmacy School.

I also am very interested in establishing a student-friendly community upon the completion of Pharmacy School. It is a mission of mine to create a non-profit organization where other Pharmacists and I can intern students who are interested in pursuing pharmacy, such as high school students wanting to explore the field of pharmacy. I will also organize local projects that promote the health of my community, such as working with certain families who are in need of a Flu shot, for example.

I believe that many health care professionals undoubtedly lack the empathy for their patients. In my experience, many medical doctors will simply treat a patient, and then go on to treat the next without any sort of personal communication/empathy. What I do understand is that certain treatments can be very taxing on a patient's mental and physical capacity. I am committed to being the Pharmacist that will smile at every patient who is ill, and provide them with the perfect treatment so that they will soon be able to smile back. Being able to see a drastic transformation in a patient will be the greatest pleasure of being a Pharmacist, due to the fact that the patient can go home and smile with family members by their side. My greatest motivation as a Pharmacist is not to just prevent death, but to improve the patient's overall quality of life!