

“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 collegiate journey. Many of my friends will imply that they picture pharmacists as a category of miracle drug workers; others have said that they picture a worker standing behind a counter in a lab coat and blindly giving medication to patients. Upon further research of my own, I made the decision to pursue a life-long journey in pharmaceuticals, and have dedicated my education to gain acceptance into a prestigious pharmacy school where I will be able to become a leader in the field of pharmacy.

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 insight into my career, I did not have the 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 exhibit a passion towards chemistry and biology, and I wanted to have a deeper understanding of these subjects.

Fast forward into my freshman year of college. I was cautious about taking General Chemistry because it had been two years since I had been exposed to chemistry; however, as the first semester of college progressed, my devotion for chemistry became powerful; I was excelling on all of my exams, and even had the opportunity to tutor my peers.

Upon completion of the recent Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters, I had made a name for myself in both the chemistry and biology departments. Many classmates and friends would request my assistance in certain subjects, and I would gladly assist them without asking for any compensation. Knowing that I could make my peers more loyal to their studies , we

organized several tutorial/study sessions the mornings before our Organic Chemistry and Biology classes. I performed well in these classes; I realized that from time to time, the best way to learn is to teach others. As I helped my peers, this also guided me into understanding the material in a more long-term fashion. These sessions also encouraged me to become more social and make connections with those around me. I believe that making connections is a remarkable way to approach one's collegiate and professional journey, as one will gain new friends and study partners. Knowing that I was approached in regard to tutoring other students, this begs the question - why did science, in general, become easy for me? Simply put, I understand the perseverance it takes to succeed. Building my knowledge in science is an intense commitment of mine; there is always more and more that one can learn. This challenged me to succeed, because I knew that assisting other students would help them to become successful in their courses. In my opinion, when all students are in a focused mindset and willing to enhance their knowledge, the learning environment is much more pure, and there is positive energy in this environment. I understand the importance of surrounding oneself with peers who are as dedicated, as this will raise morale exponentially.

Contact with microbes is inevitable, and it should come as no surprise that I've had to pay a visit to my local pharmacy to pick up a prescription to treat these infections. With that being said, pharmaceutical studies are remarkably interesting. Before college, I never understood the mechanism of how certain treatments can affect the human body. When I took a microbiology class, I learned about the HIV virus with a few details regarding treatment of this infection. In this specific course, we briefly touched on different approaches to HIV treatment. As I advanced in the biological and biochemical series, these increasing levels of detail and distinction interests me; while I have seen references to a future cure for HIV infections, this has not happened as of yet. As I learn the details on how complex this disease really is, I know that I'm intrigued to learn more as although science advances, there always will be diseases where

knowing the details makes all the difference in being able to help people. Interestingly enough, I have been doing much research on specific areas of pharmacy such as vaccinations, as well as the current specificities of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Antibiotic resistant bacteria is a growing problem, and I specifically wish to dedicate much research to this topic so that I can make patients more aware of this phenomenon.

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' grade in one of my courses. Ever since I received a 'B', I challenged myself to make an 'A' on every single college course from here-on out. This challenge that I created for myself has resulted in me receiving the award of President's List a total of three times since then, as well as earning numerous scholarships for my academic success. I am also a member of the honor society Phi Theta Kappa, a community college honor society that requires full time enrollment, including a 3.5 cumulative GPA.

I can truly say that I have dedicated my entire collegiate journey to have a successful career in pharmacy. I am not yet a pharmacist, but I believe that upon admission I will be much closer to this life long vision. It is up to me now to spend hours with hands-on pharmaceutical training. I have recently received my pharmacy technician trainee license. Upon receiving this license, I plan to receive hands-on training as a pharmacy technician. Gaining insight from current pharmacists, I have learned that most pharmacists recommend becoming a pharmacy technician. I believe that working as a pharmacy technician will prepare me substantially, as I will get to see the day by day lifestyle that a pharmacist undergoes.

Upon acceptance into pharmacy school, it is my duty to stay up to date with current drug knowledge, policies, and laws regarding pharmacy. I understand that it is my responsibility to nurture certain patients back to a healthy state of living so that they will soon be able to thrive. I also vision an environment in which all of my peers and professors 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 desire to be a student who is a leader, and one who encourages other students to pursue their dreams. I will stand out in pharmacy school for all of the right reasons: encouraging my peers to succeed, learning new things about the field of pharmacy, speaking with professors and pharmacists about the current laws and policies in the field, and being one-hundred percent dedicated in achieving a life-long successful career in pharmacy. My undergraduate success has been remarkable in providing me with the skillset required to be triumphant in pharmacy school.

The vision won't stop once I complete pharmacy school; I am also very adamant in establishing a student-friendly community. 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. This program would allow these students to gain insight and experience in the setting of a pharmacy, as well as being able to work under these conditions. We will also provide current knowledge regarding pharmacy laws, drug interactions, drug mechanisms, and how to work under non-ideal stressful conditions. There will always be curious patients who wish to understand the specifics of the drugs they are taking, and it is up to us as pharmacists to give each patient the correct knowledge of their treatment, including drug-drug interactions that can occur. 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 strongly consider the notion that many health care professionals lack the empathy for their patients. What I do understand is that certain treatments can be very taxing on a patient's mental and physical capacity. Due to this, 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 illness and/or death, but to improve the patient's overall quality of life!

With the decision to help me gain admission into pharmacy school, the public and the profession will also be helped. My desire is to be a pharmacist in a hospital setting, where I will then advance to become a supervisor for my department. The field of pharmacy will gain a new member who is absolutely dedicating in achieving success. The profession will also gain a pharmacist who will encourage students all around to explore this career so that they can too become successful pharmacists. The public will be helped due to the fact that local pharmacists and I will be dedicated in organizing local projects aimed at nurturing the public back to proper health. All in all, the field of pharmacy will gain a leader.