

Personal Narrative

Folic acid, a B vitamin used commonly by pregnant women to prevent birth defects during pregnancy also treats forms of anemia. My first introduction to prescription medicine was through my brother. My brother is missing three of the four alpha-globin genes and has Hemoglobin H disease, leading to mild anemia. Later, when my grandmother came to live with us, her morning routine ignited my curiosity involving drugs. She tests her blood glucose and her blood pressure before proceeding to take her daily medications throughout the day. As I was completing my high school senior internship project at a neighborhood pharmacy, I took this opportunity to consult with the pharmacists regarding what her list of medications does for her. How does taking eight medications help manage her diabetes, her blood pressure, and her aging body? How did a B vitamin help my brother manage his genetic blood condition?

Drug and vaccine development has been a prominent part of the pharmaceutical world in the past three years due to COVID-19. I began my experiences in pharmacy amid the pandemic. After the lockdown, I was accepted at a community pharmacy where I interned during an extraordinary time of events. The newly formulated COVID vaccines were being administered, rapid tests began to circulate, and soon innovative medications that relieved symptoms were starting to be prescribed to patients. All of which occurred in three years. During this time, I was shaped by a real-world contemporary situation all while integrating the operations of a typical pharmacy into my learning experience. Being a part of a team during this time was rewarding in many ways. I focused on providing care through retail pharmacy by carrying out prescription fills, assisting in pharmacy maintenance, navigating patient concerns, and fulfilling patient needs. At the same time, I was carefully guided on topics about pharmacy like drug regulations, pharmaceutical advancements, pharmacy insurance policies, and pharmacy-physician regulatory policies. Positioning myself in the pharmacy, I observed the work of the pharmacist and admired their commitment to their careers and their patients.

I take all opportunities to connect my learning to my goals, to my interests, and to my life. A high school freshman biology research project about a genetic condition in my family called thalassemia and a senior internship project with the community pharmacy, molded my desire to take classes like Drugs and Behavior, Psychopathology, and Introduction to Drug Development in college. I was invested in each mechanism and how the individual drug made its unique impact on systems to produce a certain desired effect. I incorporate my pharmacy experiences into various projects throughout college which helped me analyze the roles of retail pharmacy and what retail pharmacies bring to their patients. Through these projects, I expanded my desire to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Retail pharmacy was my stepping stone into a pharmacy career. I want to further understand the different fields of pharmacy and determine which field I would pursue. Pharmacists are drug experts and I wish to earn my Doctor of Pharmacy degree to expand my expertise so that I can be the resource that various individuals confide in to extract the maximum benefits through drugs. I want to make my impact through patient care through pharmacy. I have a strong development of responsibility and work ethic from a young age, and this development of care for others was engraved into my beliefs. I want to see the innovation of drugs and medicines to keep up with continuous research, the evolution of technological advancements in the

industry, and the development of accessibility to patients to their treatments. What motivates me is knowing that I can impact an individual's short-term and long-term health through the use of drugs.