

My interest in the benefits medicine provides for people began at a young age. My first introduction to prescription medicine occurred when my brother was born. My brother is missing three of the four alpha-globin genes and has Hemoglobin H disease, leading to mild anemia. He was prescribed Folic acid, which he has since taken daily. Folic acid, a B vitamin, helps my brother supplement red blood cells in his body and is also used commonly by pregnant women to prevent birth defects during pregnancy. From feeling the mere exhilaration of pronouncing the drug name to my ever-growing curiosity about what folic acid is, my interest escalated through the learning process.

My fascination with the benefits of medicine continued to grow when my grandmother began living in my home. Her morning routine ignited my involvement with medicine. She tests her blood glucose and her blood pressure before proceeding to take her daily medication. As I was completing my high school senior internship project at a neighborhood pharmacy, I took this opportunity to consult with the pharmacists regarding how my grandma's list of medications helps 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?

My interests not only lie in learning more about prescription drugs but also to broaden my knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry. 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 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. 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 filling prescriptions, 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, federal pharmacy policies, and pharmacy-physician regulatory policies. Positioning myself in the pharmacy, I observed the work of the pharmacists and admired their commitment to their careers and their patients.

My experience with prescription medicine and working at the pharmacy sparked my desire to continue learning more about how medication helps people. Therefore, 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 at the pharmacy, molded my desire to take classes like Drugs and Behavior, Psychopathology, and Introduction to Drug Development in college. I incorporated my pharmacy experiences into various projects throughout college which helped me analyze the roles of retail pharmacy and what retail pharmacies provide to 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 will pursue. Pharmacists are drug experts and I aim 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 on patient care through pharmacy. From a young age, I had a strong development of responsibility and a work ethic. This development of care for others was engraved into my beliefs. I want to see the innovation of drugs and medicines and the benefits each has for people. I plan to continue my quest for knowledge in the pharmacy field by engaging in continuous research, staying abreast of the evolution of technological advancements in the industry, and the development of accessibility of medications to patients. What motivates me is knowing that I can impact an individual's short-term and long-term health with medicine.