

# PHARMD SPOTLIGHT



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*1. What would you say to current pharmacy students who are eager to learn more about industry but are not convinced that it is the right career path for them?*

To current pharmacy students who are contemplating whether the industry is the right path for them, I'd recommend exploring the extensive range of roles within the pharmaceutical sector. Beyond the familiar positions, there are numerous roles that might not be immediately apparent. My strategy was to utilize LinkedIn to connect with individuals in positions that intrigued me, taking the opportunity to understand their roles, the challenges they face, their rewards, and their career paths. This approach often furnished me with the insights necessary to make an informed decision about my career.

*2. What role has networking played in your career and what advice would you give to pharmacy students who are interested in networking but don't know where to begin?*

I view networking as essential relationship building and it has been instrumental in my career progression. It has opened doors for me, leading to my participation in business case competitions, mentorship programs, and training programs. For pharmacy students unsure about networking, I'd advise starting with cold messaging people in positions that interest you. Request a short discussion, and don't be discouraged if not everyone responds. A single conversation can significantly shift your perspective or trajectory. As a student and now as a fellow, I found LinkedIn and major conferences to be valuable networking platforms. These platforms not only helped to expand my network but also sharpened my written and face-to-face communication skills, both crucial for success.

*3. What skills do you think are the most important for a pharmacy student to develop to become an excellent candidate for a fellowship?*

In my view, the top three skills a pharmacy student should hone to be a strong fellowship candidate are communication, adaptability, and time management. Effective written and verbal communication are foundational skills, essential for understanding expectations and delivering on various tasks, whether leading internal meetings or presenting externally. Adaptability, the ability to navigate unexpected challenges and remain composed, is a highly valued trait. It allows one to thrive under pressure and serve as a stabilizing influence in a team. Finally, time management, a skill most pharmacy students are already practicing, continues to be crucial as it enables one to effectively prioritize tasks and manage their workload.

