

# PHARMD SPOTLIGHT



## Ryan Babakhani, PharmD, MS

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*1. What drove you to choose a fellowship in the functional area you currently work in, and could you briefly describe this functional area?*

I was exposed to various functional areas within industry through my master's program at USC, Healthcare Decision Analysis, and I did a few internships within different companies focusing on market and value and access, medical affairs, and health economics. Value evidence strategy combines medical affairs with health economics which is exactly what I was looking for.

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

I believe soft skills and being able to work in a dynamic, team-based environment is very important. Getting exposure to different areas of pharmacy and the industry itself and understanding the importance of each area is crucial as well.

*3. Can you describe the type of research you did in pharmacy school, and do you think being involved in a research project at pharmacy school gives a competitive advantage for gaining entry into the pharmaceutical industry?*

I worked as a research analyst at a consulting company during pharmacy school which gave me exposure to scientific and medical communications, and I thought that was very useful when it came to understanding the role of consulting firms within industry. It also strengthened my understanding of medical affairs and value and access which I thought was very advantageous during interviews.

*4. At what point in your undergraduate education did you realize you wanted to attend pharmacy school, and why did you choose a PharmD instead of another advanced degree?*

I worked as a technician at a local chain pharmacy for years during undergrad and I was always impressed by the knowledge of the pharmacists that I worked with. The impact they made in the lives of patients sparked my interest in pharmacy. I also volunteered at my university's pharmacy which further drove me to pursue a PharmD.

