

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?

I'll first say that I would never try to "convince" somebody that a career in pharma is right for them. I think with all experiences in pharmacy school, it's important to keep an open mind and discover why people are passionate about what they do. That being said, the opportunities to learn hands-on about pharma (rotations and/or internships) are competitive and pretty scarce. However, there are tons of resources online that can give you an edge in understanding what might be best for you and especially – finding your why. Whatever your current interests are, you might be surprised how much crossover there is with a career in the industry. A few places to start to learn more about pharma: the Forbes Healthcare Summit, McKinsey life science whitepapers, and, of course, LinkedIn & reaching out to fellows and recent grads in your area of potential interest. Side note: Please make an effort to go below the surface level stuff, applying to marketing fellowships because you like being creative is not only incorrect, but also unoriginal!

2. What classes in pharmacy school have best prepared you for your current position and why?

Some standout classes for me during the didactic years were around evidence-based medicine, pharmacoeconomics, patient safety and quality, along with my managed care elective. Above all, I valued experiences that were not necessarily question and answer, but problem solving/solution based. I think that was something on rotations that I really valued, being able to take concepts that we learned in the classroom and apply them to real life scenarios/projects where isn't necessarily a perfect answer and being comfortable with that.

3. What do you enjoy most about the company that you work for?

AZ has been an incredible experience for me. There are a lot of easy answers to this question, whether it be the portfolio & pipeline, the culture & values, team diversity, innovation & career opportunities. These are just a few reasons why I enjoy the company so much, but most importantly to me have been the people I interact with every day. Throughout my fellowship and now as a full-time employee, I've had mentors and leaders who have been fully invested in my interests and my development as a professional. It's a cooperative relationship that challenges and builds upon itself. While skills and experiences are important to the role, we are very much still in the business of people. People who are not only a pleasure to collaborate with, but project forward into the future leaders of the organization.

