

## Pharmacy School Personal Statement (Details Changed)

There was an excruciating throbbing pain, in my head. I found myself fatigued, sweating, and nauseous. The slightest bit of light would exacerbate the pain in my eyes. Sounds were amplified more than normal. Combined with everything else, it was unbearable. As a senior in high school, that was my first personal experience with what was later diagnosed as a migraine headache, and my physician prescribed medication to help treat the pain. I was relieved to know that the consumption of a tiny pill could alleviate the excruciating pain that I had been enduring from my migraines. It was then that my initial fascination with how drugs interact with the body began. In pursuing a doctoral degree in pharmacy, I will have the chance to delve into the very misunderstood and underestimated domain of drugs.

My first step to pursuing a career in pharmacy was to begin a major in health sciences at Fake University. My exposure to drug and body interactions began in my biology courses and was further explored in my pharmacology course. It was intriguing to learn how using one drug inhibits the action of glands in the body, enzymes, and other drugs. My medical terminology course helped me become comfortable with healthcare language. Additional coursework in anatomy and physiology helped me to understand the complexity and intricacy of the human body. Overall, my education in the health sciences has given me a solid foundation in the basic medical sciences that will help me to become a successful pharmacist.

In addition to majoring in health sciences, I wanted practical experience working in the field of pharmacy. I volunteered at Hospital X outpatient pharmacy for two years, and I am currently working as a pharmacy technician at CVS Pharmacy. These volunteer and paid experiences have provided me with insight beyond the stereotypical assumption of a pharmacist's job consisting only of dispensing pills. People often underestimate the importance of the work that pharmacists do. Drugs can save lives but can also be dangerous and harmful if not monitored properly. Pharmacists not only give patients medication but also regulate and verify that the medication is appropriate. The pharmacists that I have worked for throughout the years have all exemplified passion, knowledge, and insight in their profession. Pharmacists play an important role in the healthcare system, because of how patients value them as not only healthcare professionals but also for emotional, social, and psychological support. There is a strong respect and trust relationship between pharmacist and patient.

As a pharmacy technician at CVS, I love working with patients, including assisting with insurance issues and reaching out to physicians for alternative medications that are more affordable for the patients. I want patients to have a great customer experience and ensure optimal workflow so they receive their medication in a timely manner. I take pride in allowing patients to feel comfortable approaching the pharmacy team with questions and concerns, be it with filling prescriptions or general health concerns. My pharmacy manager and staff pharmacist at CVS have praised my customer service skills and passion for working with patients.

Giving back to the community is truly satisfying for me. For this reason, I have spent numerous hours volunteering in community events. My experiences in volunteering include nonprofit organizations such as the Summer Day Camp ABC, Kid's Club YX, and Foundation XYZ for refugee relief. Giving back to the community has also helped me grow as a person. Through these experiences, I have learned to be open-minded, culturally sensitive, patient, and skilled at working in a team environment.

The most important driving force in pursuing a career in pharmacy is my thirst for knowledge. Pharmacists have to adapt to different situations, knowing that all patients are different and have their own specific needs. I view it as a puzzle that needs to be solved. For me, each patient is a puzzle in and of him or herself.

With my determination and love for the sciences, I believe I am a good candidate for pharmacy school. My career choice will be an intellectual challenge that I am willing to take because I enjoy challenges, whether intellectual or emotional. Becoming a pharmacist will enable me to fulfill my interest in knowledge and have a positive impact on people's lives. I plan on using my future knowledge and skills as a pharmacist to give back to the greater community.