

Margeaux (Maggie) Byrd PharmD



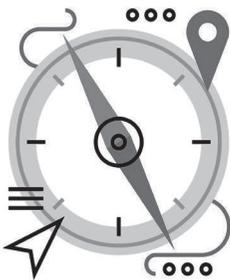
Invest in Your Future, Dive in, and Take the Risk

Maggie demonstrates her passion and enthusiasm for the pharmacy profession, and during her residency she wanted to make a difference. This fit well with her project choice, implementing a Transitions of Care pharmacist position for the hospital. Maggie is outgoing and approachable, and she connects well with her patients and members of the healthcare team. She has a strong commitment to patient care and balances her career and family life well.

Maggie is currently Clinical Pharmacist, MultiCare Auburn Medical Center, Washington. Maggie completed her accredited postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) residency at MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup, Washington and received her PharmD degree at the University of Montana, Missoula. Maggie also received her BA degree at Carroll College, Helena, Montana with a double major in chemistry and psychology.

Maggie's advice is: ***A residency is an opportunity to refine your professional self. It is a symbiotic investment—between you and your site. If you want it, go for it. Dive in and take the risk—it will be worth it.***

Dear Pharmacy Colleague,



The decision to pursue a residency has been one of my greatest accomplishments. It was personally driven, which resulted in clinical and individual growth. I hope a glimpse into my journey offers some guidance for yours.

IF YOU WANT IT, GO FOR IT

As a former bartender, those around me can attest that my strengths involve people skills. During pharmacy school, I was that student in class who made her morning rounds with each classmate, checking in, and offering a humiliating story about myself with the satisfaction of knowing I made someone smile. A procrastinator, still to this day, my energy was instinctively directed toward building relationships, not memorizing text books and analyzing clinical studies. I held officer positions in almost every club. In addition to my extracurricular activities, I worked 1 or 2 jobs, started school with a newborn, and thought it was a great idea to have another baby during my third year. My husband traveled for work, so as you can imagine, I slept very little during pharmacy school. I share this background of juggling children, school, jobs, and extracurricular activities because when the idea of pursuing a residency was presented, you can understand why I avoided it.

I have always known the value of a pharmacy residency. Working at hospitals with residents, and witnessing close friends take on this endeavor, I saw their amazing transformation to becoming confident and strong clinical pharmacists; however, I also saw their struggles. I heard stories of late nights, challenging working environments, never-ending projects, lack of a social life, and less than appealing salaries. If you asked me if I was going to do a residency, I hesitated. I desired to be the clinical pharmacist my friends were becoming, however; I doubted if I could match, and with two kids and my husband starting his career, I had more than myself to think about. Besides, my strong interpersonal skills were not reflected on my exam scores, and I was already beginning to feel some burnout after pushing myself so hard during pharmacy school. So, I asked myself: Was I residency material?

The answer: **Yes.**

The most important quality for pursuing a residency is a desire to be in one. Do not let rumors, statistics, or fear persuade you from residency. Grades, extracurricular activities, and reputations are all important, but are all meaningless unless you have desire. A residency should not be a check box on your resume. I know many former residents have viewed it as such, and in some moments I did as well. However, a residency is an opportunity to refine your professional self. It is a symbiotic investment—between you and your site. If you want it, go for it.

FINDING YOUR MATCH

Applying for a residency is a challenging process and can be very stressful at times. With my lingering hesitation, I took the risk and flew to ASHP's Midyear Meeting to investigate residencies. I arrived completely unprepared and drowned in the sea of business suits. Every person I met had pearls of wisdom for me. I was told what to wear, what to say and how to say it, which residencies to look at, how to get "in" with