

Patryk Kornecki

PharmD



Reasons to Do a Residency, How to Select the Right One, and How to Maximize Its Value

Patryk is a motivated, passionate, and versatile pharmacist who embraces his experiences with Walgreens community and local specialty/health-system pharmacies to lead, enhance, and redefine the practice of pharmacy for his team and patients. He is known for providing excellent patient care and communications as well as teaching in a variety of healthcare and academic settings.

Patryk is currently a Walgreens Local Specialty Pharmacist in Boston, Massachusetts. He completed an accredited community pharmacy residency at Walgreens Specialty and Northeastern University in Boston, having received his PharmD from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston.

Patryk's advice is: ***Take chances on new experiences because it will give you confidence to make important decisions later on. It was because of the chances and challenges I took early that I could cross paths with fantastic mentors, difficult patients, and new environments.***

Dear Pharmacy Colleague,



It was a cold autumn night when my pharmacist drove me home after a successful closing shift. We both reflected on our day and set the bar higher for the next. After exchanging thoughts and excitement about the good work our team does, he asked me, “Patryk ... have you thought of doing a residency program with Walgreens?” And so the seed was planted.

As a senior in high school and student in college, I was always passionate about community pharmacy and the ability to change people's lives. I started my relationship with Walgreens as a volunteer intern through high school in Clifton, New Jersey. Immediately, I became inspired by the work we did and the role we played in our community.

I set my first goal: To become an intern for Walgreens. The following year, however, our company faced a hiring freeze. Keeping the dream alive, I began a series of many email exchanges with my pharmacy supervisor that ultimately resulted in a stronger relationship. In the years that followed, I worked at many different Walgreen pharmacies in the New Jersey and Boston regional areas, gaining experience and meeting fantastic people along the way.

The following are a few important traits that I think are important.

BE PERSISTENT

I visualize persistence as knocking on the doors of opportunity. As a young professional student, it's difficult to develop a sense of confidence early on, but persistence in your goals and dreams will certainly get you there. It is also reassuring to know that a lack of persistence was not the cause of your failures. Reflecting back on my journey, persistence served as the foundation for developing greater confidence and the ability to overcome adversity during difficult times. This very same characteristic helped me gain my first shift at a specialty pharmacy. I was tenacious and kept asking for new experiences and opportunities. That pharmacy later became the site of my residency program. People around you will notice your persistence as it shows you have ambition; when demonstrated professionally and diplomatically, it also shows initiative.

BE OPEN

The ability to take chances on new experiences gave me confidence to make important decisions. The chances and challenges I took early in my career enabled me to cross paths with fantastic mentors, difficult patients, and new environments. It is important to begin a journey of self-reflection and analyze your own strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes. Each experience and encounter had an impact on my personal and professional growth, painting a clearer picture of who I wanted to become and where I wanted to be. You, too, can be an artist, but it has to start with being open and then reflecting on those new experiences. Steve Jobs remarked that, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."

I committed to pursuing a residency program because I wanted to be a part of momentous change, be on the cusp of innovation, and help push the boundaries of community pharmacy. Most importantly, I wanted to take my experiences with patient