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PharmD, MS



Maximizing Life's Transitions

Allison is a risk taker who hustles to make the most out of every experience and is not afraid to choose the road less traveled. You will learn from her letter how she handled important transitions to guide her professional career and continue to perfect herself.

Allison is currently a Pharmacy Consulting Director with Huron Consulting Group, Chicago, Illinois. She completed an accredited postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) pharmacy practice residency and accredited PGY2 health-system pharmacy administration residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Allison received a BS in Biochemistry from DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania and her PharmD and MS in Health-System Pharmacy Administration from The Ohio State University, College of Pharmacy, Columbus.

Allison's advice is: ***Throughout your career, you will constantly face tough decisions and critical transition points. Set yourself up for success by seeking out mentors, following your trajectory, embracing your failures, and stepping outside of your comfort zone.***

Dear Pharmacy Colleague,

Successful pharmacy leaders have career paths filled with events where a thoughtful decision was made in response to a high-stakes transition. Some of those transitions are self-driven, while others are decided upon from different forces. Some transitions are simply necessary changes while others are critical reflection points. I hope that this collection of personal transitions empowers you to confidently respond to the transitions that will shape your career path as a pharmacy leader.



FOLLOW YOUR TRAJECTORY

Pop-culture-themed chemistry demonstrations, gold nanoparticles, and a few inspiring leaders were the (not-so-obvious) factors that took me from being a wide-eyed biochemistry undergraduate to a PharmD/PhD graduate student 500 miles away from home! Undergrad was a time to hustle in and out of the classroom, but simultaneously a time to *not* take life too seriously. For me, it translated in a debut science demonstration program that allowed me to teach high school students about chemistry using pop culture references. It also meant that my senior research project would be the study of electrochemistry of gold nanoparticles because I really liked chemistry and gold, equally! More importantly, the mentors who surrounded me during this time were diverse and accomplished leaders in pharmacy, medicine, and the sciences. I approached senior year with big ambitions and equal uncertainties. So, I cast my net wide and decided to pursue a PharmD/PhD Translational Science program at The Ohio State University (OSU), which captured my interests to be both a clinician and a scientist. At the time, I made the choice because I couldn't be decisive. In retrospect, this transition was one of the greatest reflection points in my career because it taught me the value of following my trajectory.

During pharmacy school, I was fortunate enough to be selected for an administrative internship at the College of Pharmacy to support, manage, and grow the Latiolais Leadership Program for OSU's combined Master of Science (MS)/residency in health-system pharmacy administration. At the time, I knew very little about pharmacy administration, and I was the first intern for the program. Without a precedent or an example to follow, it was an intimidating and refreshingly humbling experience to be surrounded by a group of accomplished alumni who had made many lasting impacts on our profession. I was in awe of their drive and passion for leadership, our profession, and fortunately for me, developing others. My boss and the other Executive Steering Committee members encouraged me to use my unique strengths and to raise my hand even when I didn't think I had anything to contribute. They gave me the opportunity to create new programming, branding, and communication strategies. This experience made me realize that I thrived in settings that required me to be self-driven, innovative, and as my boss would say, "deliver the message to Garcia." The tremendous personal and professional satisfaction from this internship experience, as well as my leadership roles with student government and pharmacy organizations, led me to leave the doctorate (PhD) portion of my program. This was a difficult decision because no one likes to "quit," but my strengths, network of mentors and coaches, and my gradually emerging passions for strategy and organizational management did not align with completing a PhD. Following my momentum, I chose to complete my PharmD and pursue a combined MS/residency in health-system pharmacy administration.