

Pharmacy Personal Statement

Example

After making aspirin in a Chemistry lesson, I became fascinated by drug synthesis and decided to consider a career in Pharmacy. Researching the undergraduate courses available, I found a new interest in cells and how our knowledge of the body can be applied to producing medicines.

To gain a deeper understanding of the human body, I read 'How We Live and Why We Die' by Lewis Wolpert. This book delved into the microscopic world of cells and how they affect our lives, from getting ill to aging. This gave me a huge insight into why various processes in the body happen, for example, aging and respiration, and how our very own cells contribute to our wellbeing and, inevitably, our demise.

To understand more about the pharmaceutical industry, I read Ben Goldacre's 'Bad Science'; I discovered how some anti-aging creams work using specific active ingredients such as Vegetal, but also how unethical companies can deceive consumers by, for example, not declaring the exact concentrations of active ingredients. This opened my eyes to the way companies can mislead consumers and benefit from their own malpractice. Working at a retail pharmacy, I learned how to endorse prescriptions, compile medication trays for patients and make up oral suspensions. I gained an appreciation of the work of a pharmacist behind the counter and learned about some of the medicines prescribed, such as Amlodipine, a calcium-channel blocker, used to treat angina and hypertension. I also improved my communication skills by dealing with patients daily.

Last July, I participated in the CEPMaBC Polymath competition at **** and was proud that my team came second. This experience helped me to develop team-working skills; show leadership; work well under pressure and adapt to new environments. It also helped me think outside the box and apply my knowledge across all sciences to solve challenging questions. By reading 'New Scientist' regularly, I am developing my pharmaceutical vocabulary and enhancing my understanding of treatment concepts. In an article concerning the clues to aspirin's anti-cancer effects, I was astonished to discover how this versatile drug can be used to treat so many different conditions. I already knew that aspirin is an analgesic and anti-inflammatory used for pain relief, but the recent discovery that it could be used to treat cancer could mean that better cancer treatments will be available. The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in July was also inspirational and an exhibit about insect birth control particularly interested me. It demonstrated that, as male

mosquitoes carry dengue fever, scientists could, by changing their genes to make them sterile, significantly reduce the number of mosquitos and thereby the number of people contracting the disease. I reasoned that the same principle could be applied to other insect-transmitted diseases, like malaria, to save more lives in developing countries. Through the various talks I have attended, I have gained a better understanding of research projects being conducted and how simple things like bubbles have the potential to be used to treat people suffering from cancer.

I share my interest in science at school as Chairman of the Science Committee through which I helped organize and run a science fair. We started a homework club, too. This involved organization and collaboration with other committees, teachers, and students. We also taught younger students and helped to prepare them for a chemistry competition. I became Captain of the Economics class *****, after an audition.

By undertaking a Pharmacy course, I hope to develop my knowledge of medicines and their manufacture; learn how drugs are metabolized within the body; gain a better insight into the legal processes involved in marketing new products, and ultimately become a pharmacist myself.