

Taylor Blackburn

Independent Study & Mentorship

Speice 2A

October 31, 2016

Seeing the Life of a Hospital Pharmacist

Weekly Report 10/24 to 10/30

This week I completed various projects to organize and further my investigation into pharmacy and allowing me to explore my interest. I created a display board plan in order to prepare for the future with the Research Symposium and the final presentation night. Also, I conducted an interview with the pharmacist manager at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Frisco. Her experience in hospital pharmacy has given me a new viewpoint in my studies so far this year. Furthermore, this week helped me evaluate and better organize myself for future projects and assessments. I was introduced to start thinking about what my final project will be and keep it in the back of my mind for the next couple of weeks, as it will be something that represents my passion for the field I'm studying and how my research affects how I perceive my future career.

While working on the rough outline for my display board, I had a discussion with Mr. Speice regarding my progress and how I am accomplishing tasks so far in this year. It was incredibly beneficial to hear that my work was going well and I received feedback on how to decide where I should direct the focus of my assessments. Also, I mentioned that one aspect I struggle in is public speaking in front of a larger audience and calming my nerves before then. Therefore, it would greatly help me to have small speeches in class in order to get a better feel of

how to act on final presentation night. Even little amounts of practice will build up my confidence and allow me to develop my professional skills.

I have decided to obtain a few more interviews and cold call more professionals, even though I have already completed the minimum number of 5. I want to accomplish this in order to get a better understanding of how different pharmacists' jobs work and how they compare and contrast to each other. Hopefully, I will be able to establish a connection with a professional in a field with a balance between clinical work and patient interaction. On October 27th, I conducted an interview with a hospital pharmacist that has had many years of experience in different managerial positions. At her current job, she mainly communicates with doctors and deals with medicine regulation. There seems to be a lot of paperwork and meetings that comes with being the director of pharmacy at a smaller hospital, which is interesting, but I hope to find a mentor that I can learn a lot from in a clinical setting. I still hope to investigate further in this field as it seems interesting to gain more experience in to build upon my background knowledge and terminology in pharmacy. Instead of contacting managers at drugstores and hospitals, I will direct my calls toward pharmacists as they will have more day-to-day communication with patients and doctors, instead of just overseeing the pharmacy. Being a manager might interest me as a career later on, but getting more hands-on experience as a pharmacist will be more beneficial to me in ISM.