

"What degree do you plan to pursue and why have you chosen this Field?"

By: Alexis Banner

When I am asked the question, "What degree do you plan to pursue?" the answer comes naturally as I respond, "Pharmacy." I have always been interested in the medical field because throughout high school I've had a vast interest in math and science. The feeling of helping and making a difference in someone's life is so rewarding and I want to be able to experience that throughout my career. The medical field has a high demand for trained professionals due to the discoveries of diseases, developments in medicine, and the aging U.S. population. By pursuing a pharmacy degree at the University of South Carolina, I will be trained to do something that I've always wanted to do; Use my education to help others live healthy, prosperous lives.

My initial interest was in the medical field. I knew that I wanted a career in the health sector, but I did not know the exact profession that would fit me. I researched several career options including doctors and nurses, but nothing appealed to me as much as the role of being a pharmacist. My father's occupation is a pharmacist, so I've been able to ask questions, read pamphlets and obtain a first-hand account of his daily activities. A pharmacist specializes in the safe distribution of drugs and also consults doctors and patients on prescription information. They also have to keep up with the medical advances evolving everyday. As a pharmacist I will play an important role in patients' treatment and well-being. At the same time I will be involved in a fast pace work environment, which will keep the job interesting and me on my toes. The fact that there is a serious shortage of pharmacists in the country also played a small role in my decision to choose this as a career. From doing research, I have discovered that

government economists expect pharmacists to have faster job growth than average due to the aging U.S. population needing more medication. By choosing this profession, I not only satisfy my desire to become a pharmacist, but I also am contributing to the need of people in this country.

My goal in life is to become successful. I have always wanted to succeed in life and I've made a point to set my goals high. I've learned that if you set your mind on achieving a goal, it is possible. A degree in pharmacy will give me the skills to become successful and climb up the corporate ladder. By having a prestigious career as a pharmacist I will be financially stable and have the skills to serve my community. Knowing that I have the power to make a difference in someone's life gives me great joy. My professional goal will require several years of school and challenging courses, but I am willing to sacrifice because I know in the end it will be worth it.

Another main goal in my life is to be active in serving my community. With my in-depth knowledge of medicine and health, I will be able to inform young people about the illicit use of drugs, which has become a major problem in the United States. I could hold conferences and speak publicly about drug abuse and prevention to make a difference in my community. I know that by sharing information and teaching others concerning drugs (prescription and non-prescription), people will obtain a better understanding of these things, and will be able to make educated decisions from the knowledge that I supply. By doing this, it will only reinforce drug programs, such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), and allow me to have a deeper purpose regarding my education and career. I believe in giving back, and by sharing my knowledge someone would be able to make a change in his or her life.

In conclusion, I feel the best career path for me will be to pursue a degree in pharmacy. By doing research and obtaining first hand knowledge from my father and seeing the benefits pharmacy has, it made my decision to choose this field an easy one. I have no doubt in my mind that I want to work with health and medicine because it is in high demand and an occupation that allows you to grow. Not only will I be able to grow in my career, but as a person. I believe by helping others and giving back, you are enriching your life and giving yourself a higher purpose. Not everyone can say that they are able to give life saving advice during a days work. Pharmacists do this everyday. By becoming a pharmacist I will be able to accomplish several of my goals and make a difference in others' lives while maintaining a successful career. So when I am asked what degree I plan to pursue, I will proudly say, "I will pursue pharmacy."