

Volunteering at Pharmasave

Volunteering at Pharmasave Park Royal has been a great pleasure for me both mentally and physically. Through volunteering there I met new people and got to learn from them what being a pharmacist really is and how to communicate with patients and care for their wellbeing. Even though, I originally wanted to be placed in a hospital but couldn't since I was not nineteen yet, I really enjoyed this aspect of medicine since I learned a lot this year. I experienced and learned to be patient and caring but also mindful and aware of my surrounding and the task at hand. I learned that pharmacy is not just giving out medications to patients but a very long process of organizing, managing, preparing and most importantly making sure to be accurate. Accuracy is very important in this line of work since a wrong dose of a medication or a wrong pill to a patient could be very detrimental and dangerous.

At Pharmasave I had the pleasure of being in Dr. Haghie's company and to learn from her the skills of becoming a good pharmacist. She is a very kind and compassionate person that understands and cares for the people around her. She gives out thorough instructions and is very approachable and friendly. I learned a lot from her; like how to count pills or how to prepare a medication for a patient which are both very important and relevant to medicine. My ultimate goal in life is to become a doctor and I am very pleased of knowing this aspect of it (pharmacy) because it truly is a whole new world.

Not only Dr. Haghie, but her daughter and Liz (her assistant) were constant help to me.

Whenever I had a question or was concerned about something I would always ask them and they were always more than happy to help me and answer my question. To my surprise, there's a lot of action going on in a pharmacy than I expected. For example, there are patients that perhaps did not have a good day and are not so friendly so they may raise their voice. Or, quite recently a car crashed into the store window and caused a lot of damage to it! I would have never experienced any of these if I had not volunteered there and I am very happy that Mr. Gibson introduced me to it. Perhaps some of the qualities that I had that helped me be successful at Pharmasave was my ability to follow directions and I can also perform well under pressure in a crowded place.

Overall, I thank Mr. Gibson and Work Experience course for exposing me to new opportunities and environments and to Dr. Haghie for allowing me to gain many valuable experiences in her pharmacy.