What’s been your favorite part of the journey to apply to professional schools?

My favorite part about the journey to apply to professional schools is delving into what strengths I have acquired both personally and academically throughout my undergraduate career. When applying and preparing for interviews, you must highlight your strengths. This gave me confidence to realize I will be a good student of pharmacy.

What were some of the challenges you came across when preparing to apply to schools (what was tougher than you expected)?

I talked directly with my advisor and discovered I wanted to apply as an early decision applicant to whichever school I went to. I then chose a school that I deemed equipped to fitting with my goals and personality type. I looked at their specific prerequisites, GPA requirements, and more in order to push myself to reach their standards of being a competitive applicant. On top of this, I began to pursue getting PTCB certified as a pharmacy technician in order to gain experience and insight in the pharmacy setting.

What services or organizations would you recommend pre-professional students utilize?

I would recommend getting involved in your community and participating in community service as much as possible. Not only is it a resume booster, but a rewarding experience within itself. As far as academics, I would highly recommend utilizing the tutoring service provided (Pirate Academic Success Center). This service allowed me to comprehend and apply the material I was being taught in lecture. Most professional school curriculum builds off of topics already learned in your undergraduate career.
How did you prepare yourself for the process of applying to schools?

Some challenges I came across were figuring out what prerequisites I should take, as prerequisites differ between pharmacy schools and time management when filling out applications regarding school, work, and applications.

Looking back, what advice would you give to students who are interested in professional schools? What do you wish you had known earlier?

I would tell them to make entirely sure they are not only in it for the pay of the profession, but because they have a passion for the profession they choose to pursue as well. I would say to carefully weigh out your options in school and really work to be a competitive applicant to that school.

What organizations were you involved in as an undergraduate student?

I was in Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

What type of shadowing did you do?

I shadowed and worked for a local retail pharmacy in my hometown. I also shadowed a hospital pharmacist at the Raleigh Duke Hospital.

What type of volunteering did you do?

I was a part of the 2019 annual Little Pink Houses of Hope Gala, which is a gala put on by the non-profit organization benefiting those with breast cancer. I also volunteered to pack meals for Feed the Hunger in what is called a "packathon". Food packed during one of these packathons is distributed overseas to refugees and children in need. It is given out domestically through food pantries and through supplemental food programs at certain schools.

Where are you going to school?

I will be attending Campbell as a dual degree student in the Doctor of Pharmacy/ Masters in Public Health program.

Did you do research? If so what was the topic?

I did not participate in any research, yet wish I had.

What was your most rewarding experience at ECU?

My most rewarding experience at ECU was getting a 100% on my physics final, as I tried extremely hard for this due to physics being a subject that does not come very easily to me. This boosted my grade, ultimately boosting my GPA to where I could shoot to get scholarships based off my GPA.

Any other advice, recommendations, suggestions, or comments?

Use your resources. Use tutoring centers, advisors, group study sessions, rent-able library rooms, and more. These resources can mean the difference between a competitive and non-competitive GPA. Also, surround yourself with people/ friends that have similar goals as you. This helps you stay motivated, focused, and supported.