

## **Alumni Questionnaire (Job or Grad School)**

### **How did your experience at USI help you find your first position after graduation?**

I am a current second year medical student at Kansas City University in Joplin, MO, as well as a dual degree MBA student. Activities I participated in helped me develop leadership and interpersonal skills that I use often as a medical student. The variety of activities at USI also allowed me to develop my interests and passions, which helped me stand out in applications. Diversity in activities and interests will get you noticed and in interviews, and the activities that I had listed from my experience at USI helped me stand out in a positive way. Biology and Chemistry classes such as Biochemistry and Histology helped me with the first year classes of medical school as I had seen many of the concepts before and allowed me to focus on material in classes that I was less familiar with as well.

### **If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently?**

I did not take Developmental Biology, and I feel this could have helped with embryology classes in medical school. I would recommend classes such as Developmental, Histology, Biochemistry, and physiology before medical school because while you do not learn everything you will get in medical school, you will be at least familiar with terminology used and have seen some of it before.

I would also have taken more Spanish. I did it in High School but not college. There are some patients more comfortable with using Spanish and appreciate it even when we try to use some Spanish.

### **On a typical day in this position, what do you do?**

As a second year medical student, I am still within the classroom most of the time. We have had at our school some patient contact and labs where we have “practice patient encounters” to use the exam skills we learn. Typically, lectures are in the morning, any labs are in the afternoon and I will study in between lecture and lab or in afternoons and evenings that do not have labs. I do not study as much in the morning, so majority of my study hours are in the later hours.

This summer I will take boards (USMLE Step 1 and COMLEX Level 1) and then start rotations in July, where we will have daily patient contact and little classroom learning.

### **What personal qualities or abilities are important to being successful in this job?**

Time management is huge. Classes are more compact in medical school, so the ability to manage your time and tackle all the information is key. Also, interpersonal skills are huge because you are working with a team of other health professionals and the patients. Many patients do not care if you were the top of your class, but they do care if you are human and care about them and their concerns.

### **What opportunities for advancement are there in this field?**

There most certainly is. There are specialties that require more training, but there are opportunities to return to training to gain other fellowships and specialized training within each field.

### **Is there a demand for people in this occupation?**

There is definitely a demand, especially for those interest in primary care or in working in underserved areas. I am also pursuing an MBA through school, and there is a demand for physicians in administration roles because of their intimate knowledge of healthcare. This MBA will also allow me greater insight into the business side of medicine, and the tools to open my own practice in the future if I wanted.

**What do you think of the experience you've had so far in terms of entering this field?**

I have very much enjoyed it thus far. Medical school is challenging, but I cannot see myself doing anything else. I really enjoy the times that we have gotten to work with patients and apply the skills and knowledge we have been learning. We have been in clinic settings for limited sessions due to classroom schedules, but . I recently just got back from Dominican Republic where we were able to see lots of patients with different complaints (or just wanted general well checks). That trip for me was really exciting, especially since at school it has been stressful preparing for board exams. It reminded me again why I have wanted to go into medicine and why I wanted to be a doctor.

**If you could do things all over again, would you choose the same path for yourself?**

**Why? What would you change?**

I would choose the same path. After USI, I scribed at Deaconess in Primary Care for two years. This experience helped me get a lot of experience that I still tap into today. My activities at USI helped me become a stronger person and develop the necessary leadership and interpersonal skills that medicine calls for. I learned a lot from the classes I took at USI that prepared me for school (though there are a few I would have taken that I did not, such as more Spanish and Developmental Biology). Most importantly, USI helped me develop my interests that helped me stand out when interviews came around that lead to acceptances and matriculation in medical school.

**What part of this job do you find most satisfying? most challenging?**

It is challenging as we prepare for boards and the remaining exams. Classes go fast, and there never feels like enough time to know the vast amount of information. It is satisfying though when you remember something you studied and it can help a patient. Or when you are in the clinic for early clinical experiences (or traveling to another country to do medical work), and you are able to do something to help a patient. The experiences I have been afforded to work in the clinics are uplifting. I recently was working in a clinic and I felt I was not doing enough to help the patient in front of me, but at the end of the encounter, the patient grabbed my hand and said "thank you, even just for acknowledging my pain." That is what makes all the hours of studying worth it.