

Which ROP class/classes did you take and why?

I was enrolled in the Adult Pharmacy Technology class (2017-18) at Mission Valley ROP in order to become a certified/licensed pharmacy technician. I decided to enroll in this class because I have always been fascinated by medicine and how it plays a crucial role in one's life span from pediatrics to geriatrics. I had decided when I was in middle school that I wanted to pursue pharmacy and will become a pharmacist in order to lead people living a better life. Before enrolling into pharmacy school, I was curious to know the in's and out's to working in a pharmacy. The profession of pharmacy technician really helped me to figure out the workflow, essentials, and operations of a typical commonplace pharmacy. It is undoubtedly a great first step to becoming a certified pharmacist, which also incorporates employer stability and decent pay. After all, "We save lives without the Swords and Knives".

What did MVROP teach you?

Pharmacy Technology class at MVROP taught me all the basics including pharmacy laws, FDA controls, dosage forms, dosage calculations, prescription use and guidelines, HIPPA guidelines, IV areas, and the top 200 drugs which includes both brand and generic names. In addition to the basics and classwork, MVROP also showed me the core ethics, discipline, and culture to work in a pharmacy by providing an opportunity to get hands on training in a hospital setting for 120 hours, which was 1 quarter of externship.

Since Graduation what have you been doing, what are your plans?

Graduation Day- the end of class was a new beginning for me. I was all set and confident to step out in the real world of Pharmacy. I applied for my license with state board of pharmacy and passed my Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), a nationally certified exam conducted by PTCB. Once I passed the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam, I began applying for different Pharmacy Technician positions.

I currently work in two different types of settings: RX Operations Manager for one of a leading retail chain pharmacy and as a Filling Technician in a LTC Pharmacy (Close Door Pharmacy). My plans are to open up my own Independent Pharmacy after getting enough experience in the industry and I am still considering becoming a Pharmacist.

Advice for prospective or current students?

The health care industry is experiencing rapid growth and careers in this job sector typically pay higher than the average national salary. In addition, there is not a need to go to school for several years to become a pharmacy tech, like there is with other careers in the health care industry. Another perk of being a pharmacy technician is it offers the chance to work closely with a variety of people. Not only do pharmacy technicians work

closely with a certified pharmacist, but they also work with a variety of customers by helping them place prescription orders and file insurance forms. MVROP is 100% a one-stop place where any individual can get enrolled in this class and can make an effective career as a pharmacy technician despite the fact that you do not want to become a pharmacist. Because some are attracted to the pharmacy technician profession as it offers a chance to work in the health care industry without having to perform any clinical duties. However, pharmacy technicians serve an important role in the health care industry.

- *Alok Modi*