

Katie McGraw – Class of 2018

Describe your college experience; Where you attended; Your major(s) both undergrad and graduate; A couple of your favorite things about your college experience.

I currently attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy where I am studying to earn my Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD). I attended Pitt for my first two years of undergrad as well where I took pre-requisite courses to apply to pharmacy school. I love Pitt. The connections that the school has with UPMC and other successful alumni is incredible. The city is amazing and there is always something new to explore. Pharmacy school is a 2+4 year program where I spend the first 2 years taking prerequisites and the next 4 years finishing up my bachelors in pharmaceutical science and a minor in chemistry. I loved coming to college so I can start to take courses that interest me and are related to my field of study.

What are you currently doing from a career or education standpoint?

As of right now, I am learning the basics of the profession. I go to a clinic in Lawrenceville, PA every week where I consult patients on their medications and make sure their medication therapy is safe and effective. Over the summer I will be an intern at UPMC at the Medication Therapy Management center working with patients every day. On top of this, I have been volunteering at vaccine clinics hosted by the Allegheny Health Department to vaccinate eligible individuals to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are some of your favorite things you like to do in your personal time?

When I have free time, I love to explore Pittsburgh with my friends. I am also very active and have been exploring some running trails in Pittsburgh while I train to run my first half-marathon in the summer.

How did Saint Joe's impact you? And how are you using the things you learned at Saint Joe's today?

Saint Joe's taught me time management skills that are very important in my major. On top of school, I hold multiple leadership roles and balancing everything can be hard sometimes. Saint Joe's pushed me to be the best I can be and helped me realize what I am capable of.

Any family updates or other updates you want to include.

My brother, Alex McGraw (who graduated from Saint Joe's back in 2015), will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania for graduate school to earn his PhD and Masters in English Literature/Criticism. After everything he has been through, I am very lucky to have him as a role model in my life.

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about being the best individual that I can be, while helping others around me. Pharmacists are some of the most accessible health care workers. Any individual can walk into the pharmacy and ask a pharmacist any question free of charge. I want to be that person in the community that has an effect on others and being a pharmacist will allow me to do that.

One of your favorite quotes or Bible verses:

Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plan to give you hope and a future.”

Katie putting her immunization license to good use
administering COVID-19 vaccines to underserved communities.

