

Mike Kraft, Pharmacist

My name is Mike Kraft, and I have been a Pharmacist for 9 years. The profession of Pharmacy has been very exciting and rewarding. Pharmacy is a very diverse profession – you will find many different career options, and new opportunities continue to arise as the profession grows. When I began college, I had no idea there were so many career opportunities within the profession of Pharmacy. Most people only know about a couple of different practice areas: retail/community pharmacist, hospital pharmacist, or working in the pharmaceutical industry. All of these are exciting and rewarding options; however, there are many more possibilities. I seem to learn about new career options in Pharmacy all the time!

After I graduated, I went on to do a Pharmacy Residency (an intense, specialized training program) focusing on Critical Care Pharmacy. I now work at the University of Michigan as a Clinical Assistant Professor and as a Clinical Pharmacist in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU). Some of the most critically ill patients are in the SICU, and I am responsible for reviewing all of their medication orders to make sure they are safe, effective, and appropriate. I work with an incredible group of physicians, nurses, therapists, and other hospital support staff to provide the best care possible to our patients. We help patients, and their families, at a time when they need it most. I also provide education to nurses, physicians, other pharmacists, students (pharmacy, medical, and nursing), and other healthcare professionals on medication therapies. My other responsibilities include teaching lectures at the College of Pharmacy, work on committees at the College and the Hospital, research, and writing papers and manuscripts. I love my job because it is always exciting and stimulating, and each day offers a new challenge. I certainly never get bored!

There are many ways beyond your daily job to become involved in the profession of Pharmacy after you graduate. I remain very involved with the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. I especially enjoy working with students, focusing on mentoring students and preparing them for their future career and professional life. I received a great education and many opportunities were available for me. I want to ensure future students have even more opportunities and resources than I had and help them become even more successful. Working with students to better them and the profession is also very rewarding!

Deciding on a career is not an easy task – it requires a lot of research, work, and self-exploration. I hope this helps you as you pursue possible career options, and I hope it inspires you to consider Pharmacy as a career!