

“How can I pursue a career in management without neglecting the development of my clinical and research skills?”

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A successful management career requires a strong foundation in leadership and management skills, as well as effective clinical, research, and teaching abilities, depending on the position. Immediately after residency and fellowship training, pharmacists typically launch a new career by establishing a practice or research program. Entry-level management opportunities often come to those who have a proven track record in areas such as practice and research. Therefore, developing these skills and demonstrating success in these areas should be your first priority.

However, it is never too early to develop an aptitude for leadership and management. These skills can be applied to clinical practice, research, teaching, and service, such as committee work, to enhance effectiveness in all areas of professional responsibility, even your personal life. It is important to master management of self before focusing on managing and leading others. Professional pharmacy organizations offer numerous management and leadership development programs, each with emphasis on particular pharmacy careers from academia to institutional management. From home study to live programming, opportunities for management and leadership development abound:

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program is a yearlong, four-session offering dedicated to the development of leaders in academic pharmacy and higher education: [AACP Academic Leadership Fellow Program](#)

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Academy Leadership and Management Certificate Program is an educational program aimed at developing leadership and management abilities through 26 hours of courses delivered at the ACCP Annual Meetings and Updates in Therapeutics®: [ACCP Leadership and Management Academy](#)

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) offers a Pharmacy Management and Professional Leadership educational track as part of its home study CPE: [APhA Pharmacy Management and Professional Leadership](#)

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) provides several programs for leaders and potential leaders in the institutional setting: [ASHP Center for Pharmacy Leadership](#)

In addition to these formal programs, professional organizations provide online leadership resource centers, management tool kits, and subgroups devoted to administrative and leadership issues. The examples mentioned here are from national organizations; state and local organizations offer programs and resources as well. Even closer to home, many employers provide management and leadership development opportunities through human resources or other departments. Beyond the pharmacy profession, there are countless options from online resources to formal degree programs such as a master’s degree in higher education or business administration.

As management and leadership knowledge and skills are gained, it is important to further develop proficiency through application. Keep in mind that a formal administrative position is not a requirement to manage and lead. Opportunities exist to practice and refine these skills every day. By chairing committees, organizing events, building relationships, influencing patients and health care practitioners, or managing a flourishing practice or research program, occasions to manage and lead are never in short supply. In addition, learn through observation and reflection. Study others' management and leadership styles. What is most effective? Examine your own successes and failures. What can you do differently?

Perhaps one of the most beneficial means to developing management and leadership skills is to identify mentors, both inside and outside your institution. Don't hesitate to reach out to potential mentors; it is the mentee's initiative that often ensures a productive and ongoing relationship. Mentors can offer advice, share their experiences, and introduce you to a network of colleagues to accelerate your career in management and leadership.

Finally, a guiding principle to keep in mind as you begin your career and continue your journey in life is to "begin with the end in mind."

To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.

–Stephen Covey

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