Andrew Piscioneri

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering; Minor in Neuroscience (2017)
Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA

Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Research and Development Engineer:

Currently, I am a Senior R&D Engineer on the Critical Care Discovery Team for Edwards Lifesciences. I have been at Edwards since June of 2017 with most of my time being spent on the Discovery Team. The Discovery Team is responsible for assisting Strategy and Business Development on technical evaluations, external collaborations, competitive intelligence and technology development. Prior to my work in Discovery, I was on an early stage R&D team that was developing early stage sensor technology for non-invasive applications.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

In my current role, some of the most important skills that a team member needs to have is the ability to be a self-starter, independent learner, and to be effective in informing and educating others. The ability to communicate and work cross-functionally with different business functions is also crucial. Having technical knowledge in programming, engineering software, and basic analytical tools is always a must, but communicating and working well with others is what sets people apart to be successful in their role.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Biomedical Engineering?

Biomedical Engineering is a very diverse field, and you will by no means become an expert in one thing, but you will gain a wide breadth of experiences. This will help you learn what you want to do with your career and teach you how to apply your experiences in many different ways. If you decide on an engineering major, the most important thing you can do as an undergraduate student is obtain an internship/co-op for business experience and/or join a lab to do research. Lots of people have gone down the same path as you, and in my experience, more often than not they are willing to give back.