

# Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy

Perhaps no other job in pharmacy has such far-reaching effects on the profession as that of an educator. It is in academia that one can excite individuals about pharmacy and lay the groundwork for continuing advances in the field.

Over 3,000 full-time faculty members work in the nation's colleges and schools of pharmacy. They are involved with teaching, research, public service, and patient care. Others serve as consultants for local, state, national, and international organizations. Pharmacy faculty and administrators have broad and diverse responsibilities and positions. Each makes unique contributions to pharmacy education and profession. Disciplines within academic pharmacy include administration, biological sciences, clinical science, continuing education, experiential education, [drug discovery, medicinal/natural products, and pharmacology](#).

## Benefits of a Career in Academic Pharmacy

- Opportunity to contribute to scientific and clinical knowledge
- Enhance your own learning while improving the experience of learning for others
- Freedom to be creative and pursue own interests
- Develop an identity within specialty and enhance career
- Ability to collaborate with other professionals
- Personal satisfaction from training of students, residents, fellows, graduate students

## Pharmacy Faculty Shortage

Positions in colleges of pharmacy and other academic areas typically exceed the availability of adequately and appropriately trained individuals. There is a severe shortage of pharmacy faculty in the U.S. based on the results of a December 2002 survey by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). The survey sought to determine the extent and cause of the faculty shortage at the nation's colleges and schools of pharmacy. The 67 schools that responded reported a total of 417 vacant teaching posts -- an average of more than six vacancies at each school-- the majority in the areas of pharmacy practice (223 vacancies) and pharmaceutical science (190 vacancies). Moreover, most of these vacancies are for full-time teaching positions (94.3 percent); only 5 percent of the vacancies are part-time teaching slots.

For more information, view the July 29, 2003 Press Release of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE). "[Acute Shortage of Faculty at U.S. Pharmacy Schools Threatens Efforts to Solve Nation's Pharmacist Shortage](#)"

## Types of Pharmacy Faculty

- Pharmaceutical sciences
- Pharmacy practice / clinical sciences
- Social, economic, behavioral, and administrative pharmacy

## Common Characteristics Amongst Pharmacy Faculty

- They all teach pharmacy students
- They all engage in scholarly work or research
- They all publish their work
- They all participate in service activities
- They all are experts in their fields

## **Differences Amongst Pharmacy Faculty**

- Type and length of education and training required (e.g., Pharm.D, Ph.D., residency / fellowships)
  - Patient care responsibilities
  - Educating and supervising residents and fellows vs. graduate students
  - Type of research activity
  - Teaching in the classroom and laboratory vs. practice setting instruction
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## **Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty**

Pharmaceutical sciences faculty perform research in all aspects of the drug discovery and development process, and teach graduate and professional pharmacy students. Pharmaceutical scientists perform research that includes sophisticated instrumentation, analytical methodology, and procedures on animal and human subjects to study drug products. Faculty educational background typically includes:

- Undergraduate degree (biology, biochemistry, engineering, chemistry) or Pharm.D.
- Graduate school in same disciplines or in pharmaceutical science disciplines
- Experience as a teaching assistant in graduate school (4-5 years)
- Ph.D. degree
- Post-doctoral research (2 years)

## **Pharmacy Practice Faculty / Clinical Scientists**

Pharmacy practice faculty have significant responsibility for patient care, in addition to their work in teaching and research. These academicians are called upon to be educators, practitioners, and clinical scientists. They serve as role models for pharmacy students and residents in many education, practice, and research settings. In their role as clinical scientists, these faculty are often involved in research with human subjects.

- Pharm.D Degree
- Residency and/or Fellowship
- May include graduate (Masters and/or PhD) degree

## **Social, Economic, Behavioral, and Administrative Pharmacy Faculty**

Social, economic, behavioral, and administrative pharmacy faculty are concerned with matters pertaining to people, health care, and pharmacy services (distributive and clinical) in professional, institutional, business, social, and other consumer-oriented environments. These faculty members teach professional and graduate students and perform research. Research training is in economics, epidemiology, social, psychological and cultural aspects of medication use and health policy. These faculty members usually have a pharmacy background, but it is not necessarily essential. A Ph.D degree in a related field is generally required.

For more information about this discipline, visit the web site for the [International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research](#).