

A Road Map to Pharmacy

Start Here

Pre-Pharmacy Study

2-4 years: Students enter the professional Pharm.D. curriculum after two to four years of college and often without having to complete a bachelor's degree. Some pharmacy schools offer pathways for high school graduates.

Licensure: All Pharm.D. graduates must complete the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and other licensure required by a state board of pharmacy.

Pharmacy College/School Pharm.D. Degree

3-4 years: All Pharm.D. curricula require a total of nine semesters of study, most occurring over four years, and some condensed into three years of intensive study.

Residency: One to two years of paid postgraduate training.

Fellowship: Postgraduate training with a focus in academia, research, or industry.

Optional Career Development

Board Certification: Licensed pharmacists may choose to become board certified in a specialty area of practice.

Pharmacy Workforce

Open to Learn More

Hundreds of career pathways are available!

Camille Schrier, Miss America 2020

"I grew up loving science and decided to pursue a Pharm.D. Once I complete my degree, I hope to combine my clinical knowledge with business experience to help lead a unit within a pharmaceutical company like the one I started in as an intern!"



Why Choose Pharmacy?

An exciting career choice

Pharmacy combines science, healthcare, computer technology, business and math, offering a rare blend of teamwork and direct interaction with patients.

A trusted profession

Pharmacists are consistently ranked as one of the most highly trusted professionals because of the important care and health-related services they provide to patients.

Room to grow

Pharmacists can often move easily between different practice areas and explore many interesting opportunities over the course of their career.

Excellent earning potential and job satisfaction

Pharmacy is a professionally and financially rewarding career with strong salaries and work-life balance.

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Explore Just a Few of the Career Pathways in Pharmacy!



Ambulatory Care Pharmacists

assist patients with multiple, short-term or long-term medical conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, who frequently take multiple medications.



Cardiology Pharmacists

specialize in the management of patients with cardiovascular (heart) disease, in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, who are often prescribed multiple medications.



Community Pharmacists

use their expertise to ensure the medicines and doses are correct based on a patient's health and other factors, safeguard against drug interactions, counsel patients regarding safe and appropriate medication use, and administer immunizations.



Compounding Pharmacists

prepare customized or personalized medications in response to a prescription or when commercially available drug products do not meet a patient's individual needs.



Emergency Medicine Pharmacists

treat the wide variety of patients who visit a hospital emergency room, whose conditions range from bruises and colds to traumatic accidents and chest pains.



Geriatric Pharmacists

specialize in management of older adults who may take several medications to address multiple long-term health issues, such as diabetes, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, pain, or other conditions associated with aging.



Hospital Pharmacists

serve as important members of the health care team and provide a variety of services that are critical to the care of patients in hospitals.



Industry Pharmacists

develop new drugs in a pharmaceuticals department, conduct clinical drug trials in a research department, manage drug safety reports in an epidemiology department, or work on quality control in a drug production department.



Infectious Disease Pharmacists

focus on the care of patients who have short-term infections (e.g., influenza), long-term diseases caused by infection (e.g., HIV), or are at greater risk for infection due to other medications or diseases (e.g., cancer).



Nuclear Pharmacists

work to improve health through the safe and effective use of radioactive drugs to diagnose and treat diseases, such as cancer.



Oncology Pharmacists

are experts in the medications used to treat cancer, as well as those used to manage the side effects from cancer treatments.



Pediatric Pharmacists

ensure the safe and effective use of medicines in children ranging in age from newborn to 18 years.



Poison Control Pharmacists

respond 24/7 to urgent questions about poisonous chemicals, hazardous toxins, and serious drug interactions.



Psychiatric Pharmacists

specialize in the treatment of mentally ill patients, such as those suffering from depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders, developmental disabilities, substance abuse and traumatic brain injuries.



Veterinary Pharmacists

compound, dispense and administer medications to meet the specific needs of sick or injured animals, or to prevent animals from getting sick.