So, you want to major in Pharmacy?

Career and Transfer Services
Room SC201

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So, you want to major in Pharmacy?

Why do you want to be a pharmacist?

• Do you want a good job?
  • Excellent job opportunities are expected.
  • Earnings are relatively high (But sometimes you will need to work nights, weekends, and holidays)

• Do you like to help people?
  • Pharmacists are becoming more involved with counseling patients and planning drug therapy programs so you will need to be prepared for this.

• Are you good at science?
  • Admissions is highly competitive.
  • Pharmacists must graduate and pass a series of examinations to be licensed.
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What does a Pharmacist do?

• Distribute prescription drugs
• Advise patients, physicians, and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications.
• Monitor health progress of patients to ensure they are using their medications safely
• Occasionally mix ingredients to for medications (this is usually done by the pharma companies now)
• Some are trained to administer vaccinations.
• Some are involved in research (developing and testing new drugs).

Where do Pharmacists work?

Most work in community settings such as a retail drug store (CVS, Rite Aid, etc.), or in a healthcare facility, such as a hospital.
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Education and Training

Doctor of Pharmacy = Pharm. D.

• To be admitted to a Pharm. D. program, an applicant must have completed at least 2 years of specific professional study.

• Professional study typically includes: Math, Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Biology, and Physics), and courses in the Humanities and Social sciences.

• Most applicants have completed 3 or more years at the college or university.

• Pharm. D. programs generally take 4 years to complete. (6 years when you factor in the 2 years of professional study)
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Exams:

**PCAT: Pharmacy College Admission Test**
Some schools require you to take the PCAT for admission to their program. They look for your scores to be within a certain percentile for admission.

**NAPLEX: North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam**
After you get your Pharm. D. you must pass a series of exams. The NAPLEX is required in all US states and tests your pharmacy skills and knowledge.

**MPJE: Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam**
Required in the state of NJ – tests knowledge of pharmacy law.
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Job Outlook
Employment is expected to increase faster than average.

Earnings
Median annual wages are around $106,410. The middle 50% earned between $92,670 and $121,310 per year. The lowest 10% earned less than $77,390 and the highest 10% earned more than $131,440.
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Admissions Requirements

Requirements vary greatly by school!

Minimum GPAs are around a 3.5 for admission.

PCAT scores typically in the 70th percentile or higher.

Two-Year Pre-Pharmacy course work needs to be completed.

Students should be taking very heavy course load – Approx. 16-18 credits per semester.

If selected, an interview will likely be required.

Experience in a healthcare setting is recommended.
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Questions??????