

# ***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 70<sup>th</sup> 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?????**

