

Top Reasons to Become a Pharmacist

An Exciting Career Choice

Pharmacy combines science, health care, computer technology, business, math and counseling. Pharmacy offers a rare balance of independence and interaction with patients. If you're looking for adventure, you might be surprised to learn that pharmacy can be very exciting: Pharmacists are educated to recognize signs and symptoms of diseases that may be used in a biological attack. The accessibility of pharmacies could be one of the keys to a successful mass immunization or drug distribution program in an emergency.

A Trusted Profession

According to recent Gallup Polls, pharmacists' honesty and ethics were rated as "high" or "very high" by a large majority of Americans. If friends and/or family members frequently turn to you for advice, pharmacy may be a great field for you to explore.

A Variety Of Career Opportunities

There is a need for pharmacists in a wide variety of work settings: community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, mail order pharmacy centers, managed care organizations, and government agencies. What's more, those with advanced pharmacy training can often move easily between these different areas.

Excellent Earning Potential And Job Security

Pharmacy is also one of the most financially rewarding careers. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for pharmacists in 2021 was \$128,570. Pharmacists are also consistently in demand, even in times of economic downturns, war, political reform and natural disasters, so there is a relatively high level of job security that comes with a career in pharmacy.

Helping People Get Better

Patients do best when pharmacists are part of their healthcare teams because pharmacists are the medication specialists. According to the CDC, "The evidence is strong that when pharmacists are members of the health care team, outcomes related to preventing or managing chronic disease (e.g., blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, obesity, smoking cessation) and medication adherence improve".

Working Directly With Patients

Pharmacists are accessible in all healthcare settings: inpatient, ambulatory and community settings. Pharmacists are available to see patients at convenient times every day of the week, during morning, evening and weekend hours, and without an appointment. They are licensed to provide immunizations in all 50 states. Pharmacists may also provide other services such as asthma care, blood pressure monitoring services, cholesterol screening, diabetes disease management, smoking cessation consultation and more.

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Demand For Pharmacists

There is an ongoing demand for pharmacy services throughout the U.S. in most sectors of the profession. The demand is fueled by the following factors such as: Increased demand for patient service, number of prescriptions filled each year and number of medicines available on the market.

Major Innovations In Medication Therapy

One of the many exciting developments in the pharmacy profession is the growth of a discipline, known as pharmacogenomics. Genetic variations in genes can affect a body's response to a drug. In the future, specialists in this area hope to sequence the entire human gene in each individual. Pharmacists and other healthcare providers will be able to use that information to select the best medicines, treat diseases earlier than now possible, or prevent them entirely with individually-tailored drug therapies.

State-Of-The-Art Technology

Digital innovations in pharmacy include electronic prescriptions, robotics for central prescription processing and nationwide prescription monitoring programs, as well as pharmaceutical research. These technological advances enhance efficiency and help to promote patient safety. Pharmacists can provide innovative approaches to medication management, including recommended therapies, and the identification and resolution of problems with the aid of state-of-the-art technology

Questions? Contact us at pharm4me@acp.org.