

HOSA

career spotlight:

Pharmacist



DESCRIPTION

Pharmacists play a key role in dispensing prescriptions and monitoring their pharmaceutical aides who fill prescriptions. In addition to that role, pharmacists are also used for advice and as a reference for patients who have questions about prescriptions. Because it is so important that patients understand how to properly take their medications, pharmacists must be detail-oriented. Pharmacists are constantly learning on the job as new medications emerge because it is important for them to understand the possible allergic reactions their patients might experience. As with most careers in healthcare, it is essential for a pharmacist to be confidential when dealing with patients and the medications they are taking. A pharmacist is required to know what medications can be combined and what medications are unable to interact. Learning these specifications is essential for a pharmacist because of the reactions patients can have to the incorrect pairings of medications. The job of a pharmacist requires a moderate level of patient interaction and the anticipation of long hours and the possibility of working on the weekends.



EDUCATION

Minimum of 6 years. All states require a pharmacist to obtain a license to practice pharmacy from an accredited pharmacy program. To receive the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), a minimum of six years of coursework is required in courses such as math, biology and chemistry.

Average Salary: \$70,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

American Pharmaceutical Association (www.aphanet.org)

Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/oco/ocos079.htm)

DrugTopics.com (www.drugtopics.com)

