



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PHARMACY

What does a career as a pharmacist involve?

Pharmacists dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and provide information to patients about medications and their use. They advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications. Pharmacists must understand the use, composition, and clinical effects of drugs. Compounding—the actual mixing of ingredients to form powders, tablets, capsules, ointments, and solutions—is only a small part of a pharmacist's practice, because most medicines are produced by pharmaceutical companies in a standard dosage and drug delivery form. Annual salaries range from starting, \$52,000, to salaries for those with terminal degrees and experience, \$92,000.

What does a pharmacy technician do?

The Pharmacy Technician is a health team member. Working under the supervision of the pharmacist, the technician performs those tasks associated with the preparation and distribution of medication such as the following: transcribe medication orders and/or prescriptions, assist the pharmacist in preparing ointments, lotions, and other medications, and maintain records of patients' medication dosage. The average annual salary for a pharmacy technician is \$18,500.

What education is required?

A license to practice pharmacy is required in all States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. To obtain a license, one must serve an internship under a licensed pharmacist, graduate from an accredited college of pharmacy, and pass a State examination. Nearly all pharmacy programs grant the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) which requires at least 6 years of postsecondary study.

Requirements for admission to colleges of pharmacy vary. Most colleges of pharmacy, however, require 1 or 2 years of college-level prepharmacy education. Entry requirements usually include mathematics and basic sciences, such as chemistry, biology, and physics, as well as courses in the humanities and social sciences. Some colleges require the applicant to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test.

The Nevada College of Pharmacy offers a three-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. **Community College of Southern Nevada** offers a one-year pharmacy technician certificate of achievement program. The **University of Nevada, Las Vegas** offers a pre-pharmacy program for undergraduate students wishing to enter pharmacy school.

Where can I get more information?

- Nevada College of Pharmacy, 5740 S. Eastern Avenue, Ste. 240, Las Vegas, NV 89119 (702) 990-4433; <http://www.nvcp.edu>
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 1426 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314. <http://www.aacp.org>
- Community College Southern Nevada, Health Programs Advisement Office 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Room B103, Las Vegas, NV 89146 (702) 651-5690; <http://www.ccsn.nevada.edu/health>