



PHARMACIST

What is a Pharmacist?

Hospital pharmacist: A hospital pharmacist works in collaboration with doctors and nurses to ensure the most appropriate drug treatment for both inpatients and outpatients.

Community/retail pharmacists: Community and retail pharmacists dispense prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medicines to the general public.

I) Job Responsibilities for Hospital Pharmacist include:

- Dispensing and distributing drugs and medicines for in-patients or outpatients in the hospital setting;
- Counselling patients on the usage of medicines, especially if the course of medicines is complex;
- Collaborating with physicians and nurses on the safest and most effective course of medicines and drugs;
- Ensuring the prevention of harmful drug interactions or reactions; and
- Monitoring patients for any side effects to medication.

II) Job Duties for a Community/Retail Pharmacist include:

- Dispensing prescription medicines to the public;
- Liaising with doctors about prescriptions;
- Providing advice regarding over-the-counter medicines
- Counselling the public on the treatment of minor ailments; and
- Provides information on drug side effects and possible interactions with other medications.

A Career in Pharmacy requires:

- An aptitude and interest in the sciences;
- An interest in helping people;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Strong problem-solving skills;
- An orientation towards precision and an attention to detail; and
- Responsibility and accountability

How do you become a Pharmacist?

Employment as a community/retail pharmacist in Saskatchewan requires the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy
- Successful completion of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada's Qualifying Examination

Employment as a hospital pharmacist typically requires one year as a hospital intern.

All pharmacists must be registered with the College of Pharmacists <http://www.saskpharmassoc.ca>

Pharmacists in Saskatchewan are governed by the Pharmacy Act, 1996

Where can you get training in Pharmacy?

Saskatchewan

University of Saskatchewan

College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

<http://www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition/>

Alberta

University of Alberta

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

<http://www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca/Undergraduate.htm>

British Columbia

University of British Columbia

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

<http://www.ubcpharmacy.org/>

Manitoba

University of Manitoba

Faculty of Pharmacy

www.umanitoba.ca

Ontario

University of Toronto

Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy

www.utoronto.ca/pharmacy

Nova Scotia

Dalhousie University

College of Pharmacy

www.dal.ca/pharmacy

Newfoundland

Memorial University of Newfoundland

School of Pharmacy

www.pharm.mun.ca

Quebec

Université de Montréal

Faculté de pharmacie

www.pharm.umontreal.ca

Université Laval

Faculté de pharmacie

www.pha.ulaval.ca

What do you need to get into the University of Saskatchewan Pharmacy program?

Entrance into the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (B.S.P.) at the University of Saskatchewan requires:

A minimum average of 70% and at least 30 credit units of course work at the University level before April 30 of the year in which the student is applying, including the following courses or their equivalents:

- Biology 110.6
- Chemistry 111.3 and Chemistry 250.3
- English 110.6 or two of English 111.3, 112.3, 113.3, 114.3 or equivalent or French 121.3 (or 122.3) AND 125.3 or Literature 100.6
- 12 credit units of electives in Humanities, Social Sciences, or Fine Arts of which 6 credits must include Psychology 110.6, Sociology 110.6, Philosophy 110.6 (or 120.3 and 133.3), or Native Studies 110.6

Please note: Other educational institutes may have different requirements – please check their respective websites.

What do Pharmacists Study?

A 4-year undergraduate degree program in pharmacy typically includes:

- Chemistry;
- Microbiology;
- Pharmacology;
- Therapeutics;
- Pharmacy practice;
- Pathology;
- Nutrition;
- Biostatistics; and
- Pharmaceutical skills

Please check with respective universities for a complete list of courses offered.

Where do Pharmacists Work?

- Regional Health Authorities
 - Community and Retail Pharmacies
 - Pharmaceutical Industry (sales and marketing)
 - Government
 - Armed Services and RCMP Forensics Laboratories
 - Educational Institutions
 - Research Centres
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What is the salary of a Pharmacist?

Pharmaceutical pay scales are part of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan/SAHO Collective Agreement:
<http://www.hsa-sk.com/bargaining.php>

Related Links

International Pharmaceutical Federation
www.fip.org

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
<http://www.cshp.ca/>

Canadian Pharmacists Association/Association Des Pharmaciens du Canada
<http://www.pharmacists.ca/index.cfm>

**The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada/
Le Bureau des examinateurs
en pharmacie du Canada**
<http://www.pebc.ca/>

**Representative Board of Saskatchewan
Pharmacists**
<http://www.rbsp.ca/>

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html