

All applicants to a Pharmacy program must have at least one or two years of prior university education. The following universities currently have a Pharmacy program:

- **University of Toronto**
(www.utoronto.ca/pharmacy)
- **University of Waterloo**
(www.pharmacy.uwaterloo.ca)
- **Dalhousie University**
(www.dal.ca/pharmacy)
- **Memorial University of Newfoundland**
(www.pharm.mun.ca)
- **University of Alberta**
(www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca/Undergraduate.htm)
- **University of British Columbia**
(www.ubcparmacy.org)
- **Université Laval**
(www.pha.ulaval.ca)
- **University of Manitoba**
(www.umanitoba.ca)
- **Université de Montréal**
(www.pharm.umontreal.ca)
- **University of Saskatchewan**
(www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition)

The programs vary at each university; consult the websites for more information.

After the completion of a degree in Pharmacy, each candidate is required to write the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada's (PEBC) Qualifying Examination, which qualifies an individual to practice as a pharmacist in Canada.

There may be additional exams depending on the province of practice, such as provincial jurisprudence exams.

Some pharmacists receive additional training and education following their initial pharmacy degree. Examples include participating in a hospital residency, completion of a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree, completion of an MBA program, or certification for different disease states (e.g., asthma, diabetes, geriatric care, etc.). Many other educational opportunities exist.

RESOURCES

Ontario Pharmacists Association

www.opatoday.com

Ontario College of Pharmacists

www.ocpinfo.com

Canadian Pharmacists Association

www.pharmacists.ca

Canadian Job Futures- Pharmacist

www.jobfutures.ca/noc/3131.shtml



PHARMACY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A PRESCRIPTION FOR A REWARDING CAREER

Speak to your local pharmacist about the variety of exciting career opportunities available.

This brochure was created by the Ontario Pharmacists Association to provide information for prospective pharmacy students.



375 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2J5
Tel: 416-441-0788 | Fax: 416-441-0791
Toll-Free: 1-877-341-0788
www.opatoday.com



ONTARIO
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION

Advocating Excellence
in Practice and Care

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR PHARMACISTS

The Pharmacists' Role

Pharmacists are the medication experts ultimately concerned about their patients' health and wellness. They are health care professionals who educate patients on the use of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications and advise physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals on medication-related decisions. Pharmacists' responsibilities include a range of care for patients, from dispensing medication to monitoring patient health and maximizing patients' response to medication. They ensure appropriateness of drug therapies, promote health and wellness and help to prevent and treat diseases through the practice of pharmaceutical care.

What Skills Do Pharmacists Have

- An aptitude and interest in the sciences;
- A desire to help people;
- Highly developed communication skills;
- Strong problem-solving skills;
- Excellent attention to detail;
- High ethical standards, responsibility and accountability.

The Rewards of Being a Pharmacist

Pharmacy is a people-oriented profession and the primary reward comes from helping people with their health care needs. Other rewards come from the interaction with other health care professionals and from the opportunities to practice in a variety of roles.

Community Pharmacy

The most commonly recognized role by the public is in the community pharmacy, where pharmacists oversee the dispensing of medications, assist with medication information provision, collaborate with other healthcare professionals and monitor therapy in an effort to prevent and resolve drug-related problems. These pharmacists counsel patients on prescription and over-the-counter medications as well as on the proper use of devices (e.g., inhalers, blood glucose monitors).

Hospital Pharmacy

In the hospital environment, the pharmacist works closely with other healthcare professionals to assess and oversee all aspects of medication use. Hospital pharmacists have a clinical role in monitoring drug therapy and ensuring appropriate use of medications to help meet therapeutic goals.

Pharmaceutical Industry

Within the pharmaceutical industry there are different types of roles for pharmacists including marketing, regulatory affairs and medical information. Pharmacists working in these areas can also assist with medication research, education, and medication development.

Long Term Care Consultants

Pharmacists can work as consultants within long term care facilities. These pharmacists provide services to a number of facilities to ensure appropriate use of medications by patients. In this role, pharmacists oversee medication use within the facility, assist in creating individualized care plans for patients, recommend treatment options to other healthcare professionals and provide education to the healthcare team.

Family Health Team

Pharmacists play a clinical role as part of a Family Health Team where they work alongside physicians, nurses, social workers and other professionals to optimize patient care.

Education and Teaching

Careers in the Pharmacy Schools at Canadian universities provide opportunities in teaching, research and curriculum development. Pharmacy professors have the satisfaction of helping to develop the pharmacists of tomorrow. Pharmacists in this field usually have advanced degrees such as a Master's Degree, Doctor of Pharmacy, or Doctor of Philosophy.

Government or Regulatory

Pharmacists in government deal with the laws affecting drug products and pharmacy practice. They work for the federal or provincial governments or for the provincial licensing bodies responsible for ensuring that pharmacists practice in compliance to the law. These licensing bodies exist to protect the public.

Professional Associations

Pharmacists working for professional associations advocate for the profession of pharmacy and for pharmacists working in all settings. They advise government agencies and regulatory bodies to help shape the future of the profession and the practice environment. Unique opportunities within associations may include drug information, education and research.

Other Opportunities

Other roles for pharmacists exist in research, business ventures, Canadian Armed Forces and more. Almost every field has opportunities for pharmacists!