

# Pharmacist

A pharmacist is a healthcare professional who understands how medicines work and helps people use them safely. They fill prescriptions, answer questions about medications, and make sure different drugs won't cause harmful side effects when taken together. Pharmacists often work in places like pharmacies, hospitals, or clinics and play an important role in patient care.

## School to Career Pathway

- Complete required high school coursework in biology, chemistry, math, and physics.
- Earn a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. Most programs require at least 2 years of undergraduate coursework followed by 4 years of professional study, including hands-on clinical rotations.
- Pass the national and state pharmacy licensure exams.

## Durable Skills

As a pharmacist, you need:

- To be detail oriented to ensure medicines are correctly administered and will not harm the patient.
- Good communication skills to educate patients on their medicine and communicate with doctors to ensure correct medicine administration.
- Math skills to calculate the proper amount of dosages.
- Analyzing skills to avoid negative drug interactions.

## Paycheck Peek

\$66.10 hourly, \$137,480 annual

\*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



## Core Duties

### Fill Prescriptions Accurately:

Review prescriptions from doctors and prepare the correct medications and dosages for patients.

### Teach Patients about Their

**Medications:** Explain how and when to take medicines, discuss possible side effects, and answer questions to help patients use medications safely.

### Check for Drug Interactions:

Review a patient's medications to make sure they will not cause harmful reactions when taken together.

**Provide Health Services:** Administer vaccines, conduct health screenings, and offer advice on managing common illnesses and staying healthy.

### Manage Medication Records and

**Inventory:** Keep accurate patient records, monitor medication supplies, and ensure that medicines are stored and handled properly.



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## Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you like doing hands-on science activities in class and measuring things carefully, like during experiments or labs?
- Do you enjoy talking with classmates and helping others when they need it?
- Do you like staying busy, moving from one activity to another instead of sitting still for too long?
- Do you enjoy learning about chemistry, such as mixing substances or seeing how different materials react?

### Explore Similar Career Pathways

- pharmacy technician
- allergist
- bioinformatics technician

## Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Health](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O\\*NET Online: Pharmacy Technician](#)
- [O\\*NET Online: Allergist](#)
- [LabXchange: Bioinformatics Technician](#)