Why Choose a Career as a Pharmacist?

Within the pharmacy profession, there is a job to fit all interests. Job responsibilities range from direct patient care, where you may dispense or administer medications and advise physicians on medication selection, dosage, drug interactions, side effects, and monitoring of medication therapy, to working behind the scenes with policy development, marketing, scientific research, and everything in between. When asked what a pharmacist does, most people describe the functions of a Community Pharmacist, but there are many other opportunities within the profession that you can consider as a career path:

- Institutional/Hospital
- Uniformed Service
- Home and Hospice Care
- Consulting
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Pharmacy Law
- Pharmacoinformatics
- Government Agencies
- Managed Care
- Long-term Care
- Medical Publishing
- Nuclear Pharmacy
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Academia

Other healthcare professionals, as well as patients, rely on pharmacists for assistance on a daily basis. Pharmacists are the “medication experts,” regardless of which area of pharmacy is their specialty. As the profession develops, the opportunities that pharmacists have continue to expand exponentially. The average pharmacist’s salary is $80,000-$120,000/year. Growth within the profession is greater than the average career.

For more information about pharmacy as a career, visit the following websites:

- American Pharmacists Association
  www.aphanet.org
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
  www.aacp.org

Education Requirements & Admissions

Education. The education of a pharmacist has two stages: undergraduate (prerequisite) study and the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) curriculum.

Prerequisite Courses (at least 3 years at an accredited college or university)
- Sciences (chemistry, biology, physics)
- Math (statistics, calculus)
- Humanities (English, psychology, economics, etc.)

PharmD Courses (4 years at UTHSC College of Pharmacy):
- Topics such as Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology, Therapeutics, Pharmacokinetics, Applied Therapeutics
- Experiential (clinical) training

Admission. There are two tracks for admission to the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

Traditional UT Admissions Process
- Complete an application through PharmCAS
- Take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
- Have a campus interview

Direct Admissions Process (available at UT Knoxville and the University of Memphis)
- This allows for conditional admission to the UT College of Pharmacy directly from high school for qualified candidates
- Complete the UT Knoxville or University of Memphis undergraduate application and indicate that you are applying for the Pharmacy program; complete the required essay and interview
- Meet the maintenance criteria to guarantee your spot

Contact us. If you have questions, contact us at pharmadmiss@uthsc.edu