

# Pharmacist



## What do they do?

Pharmacists are responsible for filling prescriptions and advising a patient how to use them safely. They must be able to identify and avoid dangerous combinations of medicines. Their job requires a great deal of accuracy.

A large part of a Pharmacist's job is to advise and educate patients and families regarding safe use and potential side effects of the medications that have been prescribed.

## Where do they work?

The majority of Pharmacists work in pharmacies and drug stores, or in hospitals. They are typically on their feet for most of the day.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Pharmacists is \$116,670



## Education:

A Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacology & Toxicology allows graduates to work in chemical, biotechnical and pharmaceutical industries. A Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) is required to become a licensed pharmacist.

## Pharmacy training in Madison:

UW-Madison carries both B.S. and Pharm.D. programs: [www.pharmacy.wisc.edu](http://www.pharmacy.wisc.edu)

UW-Madison also offers a pre-professional program for Pharmacy: [www.prehealth.wisc.edu](http://www.prehealth.wisc.edu)

High School students interested in pharmacy should take classes in biology, anatomy & physiology, chemistry, physics, foreign language, math and statistics.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for pharmacy are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

[www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org)



## Professional Associations:

Pharmacists can choose to join any of the following professional associations:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP):

[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

American Pharmacists Association:

[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)

Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin:

[www.pswi.org](http://www.pswi.org)



## Registry/License:

Graduates of an accredited pharmacy program must pass two exams before they can work as a Registered Pharmacist (RPh). Both are administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).

<http://www.nabp.net>

The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) measures the candidate's knowledge of pharmacy practice. The Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) tests the candidate's knowledge of pharmacy law.

At the state level, Pharmacists must become licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

[www.dsps.wi.gov/HOME](http://www.dsps.wi.gov/HOME)



## Specializations:

UW-Madison also offers training in the following specialties:

- PharmD + Masters of Public Health (dual-degree)
- Community Pharmacy Residency Program
- Pharmaceutical Sciences (PhD)
- Social & Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy (MS, PhD)
- Health System Pharmacy Administration (MS)

## Additional Certificate Options:

- Consumer Health Advocacy
- Global Health
- Clinical and Translational Research
- Patient Safety

You can learn more about these specialties here:

<http://www.pharmacy.wisc.edu/education>

## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Pharmacists is expected to grow 14 percent between 2012-2020, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Pharmacists:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacists.htm>

