



# Pharmacy

## Education

The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree is the entry-level degree required to become a pharmacist. Many pharmacists who graduated prior to 2000 may have a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree. The PharmD degree requires successful completion of 2 years of preprofessional coursework followed by 4 years of professional courses. Following graduation, licensed pharmacists may choose to practice in a wide range of patient care settings or to pursue one- or two-year post-graduate training programs, including pharmacy residencies and/or fellowships.

## Certifications

After earning the PharmD degree, in order to become a licensed pharmacist, individuals must pass the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) as well as a federal/state law examination called the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE).

A pharmacist can also become certified in recognized specialty pharmacy practice areas by

passing an examination administered by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. The specialty areas in which this certification can be obtained include: nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support pharmacy, oncology pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, and psychiatric pharmacy.

## Roles and functions

In addition to extensive knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacists also have expertise in pharmacokinetics (how drugs are processed by the body), pharmaceutics (how the dosage formulation influences drug action), pharmacoeconomics, and other health, social, and administrative sciences. The role of the pharmacist has significantly expanded over the years. Pharmacists interact directly with patients as they fill their prescription, provide information regarding medications, and monitor their response to drug therapies. Pharmacists also work with physicians and other members of the healthcare team to select the most appropriate

drug therapy regimens, identify potential drug interactions, and establish monitoring recommendations for patients. Pharmacists may also conduct research to develop new drug therapies used to prevent or treat various disease states. Administrator, researcher and educator are additional potential roles.

## Practice settings

Pharmacists can pursue careers in a variety of settings including community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, long-term care facilities, pharmaceutical companies, managed care companies, medical publishing companies, and/or schools/colleges of pharmacy.

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Professional association links for further info on the profession:

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

Link to TJU education program:

<http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp/pharmacy/>