



What do Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians do?

Pharmacists are experts on the safe and effective use of medications.

Pharmacists:

- Dispense prescription medications,
- Counsel patients on the use of medications, side effects and interactions,
- Serve as a resource to physicians regarding effects of combining multiple medications, and
- Work with patients to manage their medications effectively.

Pharmacy Technicians assist Pharmacists by helping process and prepare prescription medications for customers. Pharmacy Technicians may also serve as cashiers for the pharmacy. Pharmacy Technicians also help in hospitals and other pharmacy practice settings.

Where do Pharmacists work?

Most Pharmacists work in community pharmacies; however, Pharmacists can also be found in hospitals, nursing homes, managed care organizations, clinics, mail order facilities and in government. Evening, weekend and holiday shifts are common.

How can I become a pharmacist or a Pharmacy technician? After high school...

A career as a Pharmacist requires a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD), which can be obtained from a six-year program at an accredited institution. Pharmacists must also pass the national and state-

specific pharmacy examinations and be licensed by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On-the-job training is common for Pharmacy Technicians, but many employers prefer Technicians who have participated in or graduated from a formal training program. Many employers offer their own training program. Voluntary certification is also available for qualified Pharmacy Technicians.

Is this the career for me?

Both Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians should be organized, precise, reliable and have a strong desire to help others. A scientific and mathematical aptitude and background are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are also important when dealing with the public. Recommended high school courses include Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Social Studies.

How much money do Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians make?

	Average Annual Salary
Pharmacist	\$81,250
Pharmacy Technician	\$21,980

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

There are an average of 354 openings for Pharmacists and 302 openings for Pharmacy Technicians annually in the commonwealth.

Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

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