

# PHARMACY



Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians dispense drugs prescribed by health care practitioners. They counsel and educate patients about drug use, interactions, and side effects.

## Careers within this section include:

Pharmacist

Pharmacy Technician



# **Pharmacist**

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## **What would I do?**

Pharmacists dispense prescription drugs to patients and help them select over-the-counter medications. Serving as medication specialists, they answer patients' questions about drug interactions and adverse reactions. Pharmacists frequently give patients advice on home health care equipment and supplies. They also advise medical personnel on the selection and effects of drugs. A Pharmacist monitors effectiveness and may suggest changes to improve patient outcomes. Other duties of the Pharmacist include weighing, mixing, and measuring compounds to form prescription tablets, capsules and solutions. Pharmacists may be educators or they may be clinical specialists directing their focus on one particular field.

## **Where would I work?**

Many Pharmacists work in either independent or national chain pharmacies. Others work in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, long-term care facilities, and home health care agencies. They can also work for pharmaceutical companies in sales or administration conducting research and development. Others may work for the insurance industry or the government.

## **What would I earn?**

\$90,000–110,000

## **What do I need to know?**

To become a registered Pharmacist, one must complete a four-year degree program (or a three-year accelerated degree program), pass a state and federal law examination, pass a national exam, and work as an intern under a licensed Pharmacist. Once licensed, Pharmacists must partake in continuing education to renew their licenses. All pharmacy schools offer the advanced Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree, which requires a total of six years of study.

## **What schools can I attend?**

In New Hampshire, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences offers a three-year accelerated PharmD program in Manchester (applicants must have completed or are in the process of completing at least two years of college-level work in the sciences).

New Hampshire students also attend out-of-state schools

such as Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston and Worcester, MA; Northeastern University in Boston, MA; University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT; and the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI. There are currently 103 schools/colleges of pharmacy located throughout the U.S.

## **Where can I find more information?**

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
1426 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 739-2330  
[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

American Pharmacists Association  
1100 15th Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 628-4410  
(800) 237-2742  
[www.aphanet.org](http://www.aphanet.org)

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
7272 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(866) 279-0681  
[www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)  
20 North Clark Street, Suite 2500  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 664-3575  
[www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org)

# **Pharmacy Technician**

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## **What would I do?**

The primary responsibilities of pharmacy technicians include assisting the pharmacist with the preparation of prescriptions for dispensing to patients (in hospital practice, the preparation of I.V. admixtures), purchasing and inventory control and billing.

## **Where would I work?**

Pharmacy Technicians work under the direct supervision of a Pharmacist. They are employed in community and chain pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies, managed care offices, and drug wholesalers.

### What would I learn?

\$18,720–32,240

### What do I need to know?

Most pharmacy technicians are trained on the job. In New Hampshire, pharmacy technicians must register with the State Board of Pharmacy within 30-days of start of employment at a pharmacy. All registrations must be renewed on an annual basis and expire on March 31.

Although it is not required in New Hampshire, the Board of Pharmacy strongly encourages pharmacy technicians to gain national certification. Currently there are two nationally recognized certification organizations: Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ICPT).

### What schools can I attend?

At the current time, a 16-week training program is offered by the Manchester Community Resource Center (MCRC) with training centers in Manchester, NH and Franklin, NH. On the web: [www.mcrnh.com](http://www.mcrnh.com) and [www.ontracktraining.org](http://www.ontracktraining.org)

### Where can I find more information?

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)  
1100 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 730  
Washington, DC 20005  
(800) 363-8012  
[www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org)

Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ICPT)  
2536 South Old Highway 94, Suite 214  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
(314) 442-6775  
[www.nationaltechexam.org](http://www.nationaltechexam.org)


National Pharmacy Technician Association (NPTA)  
PO Box 683148  
Houston, TX 77268  
(888) 247-8700  
[www.pharmacytechnician.org](http://www.pharmacytechnician.org)

On Track Training  
[www.ontracktraining.org](http://www.ontracktraining.org)

Manchester Community Resource Center (MCRC)  
177 Lake Avenue  
Manchester, NH 03103  
(603) 647-8967

Franklin Business Center  
20 Canal Street  
Franklin, NH 03235  
(603) 934-4400

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