

Skills for Pharmacy Job Opportunities

Academic Pharmacist

- Ability to balance research & teaching responsibilities with patient care
- Ability to serve as a role model for pharmacy students and residents
- Comfort with sophisticated instrumentation, statistical analyses, and other research methods
 - ❖ Practice sites: universities, schools of pharmacy, local, state, national, and international organizations

Chain Drug Store Pharmacist

- Endurance to work long hours, often standing up
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and heavy workloads
- Ability to endure high levels of stress
- A desire to help people and improve the quality of their lives
- A strong ability to communicate clearly and effectively
- A team approach and a positive attitude
 - ❖ Practice sites: Traditional chain drugstores, supermarket pharmacies, mass merchandiser pharmacies

Compounding Pharmacist

- Advanced training in advanced compounding techniques
- Creativity and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work one-on-one with patients and determine individual needs
 - ❖ Practice sites: Compounding pharmacies, general pharmacies, hospitals, universities

Critical Care Pharmacist

- ACLS (advanced cardiac life support) certification may be preferred
- Ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Ability to integrate patient care with teaching research duties as well
 - ❖ Practice sites: Intensive care units, emergency departments, operating rooms

Drug Information Specialist

- Experience and/or training in clinical toxicology, poison, and drug information services
- Communication skills
- Ease with computers and other modern technologies
 - ❖ Practice sites: hospitals, industry, community settings

Home Care Pharmacist

- Willingness to work as part of a multidisciplinary health care team
- Effective communication skills
- Strong record-keeping and documentation skills
- Willingness to be flexible with hours and on-call
 - ❖ Practice sites: patients' homes, home care agencies, hospices, specialized infusion companies, ambulatory infusion centers

Hospice Pharmacist

- Compassion in counseling and educating hospice patients and their families
- Ability to work with a team of nurses, physicians, social workers, bereavement counselors, and volunteers
- Ability to give clear precise directions and explanations to elderly patients
- Clear concept of appropriate pain management techniques and palliative care medicine
 - ❖ Practice sites: hospices, pharmacies under contract with hospices, patients' homes

Hospital Staff Pharmacist

- Ability to work one-on-one with patients
- Organizational skills, to be responsible for systems which control drug distribution
- Proficient in math
- Good communication skills
 - ❖ Practice sites: hospitals, health systems

Industry-based Pharmacist

- Ability to meet technical demands and perform scientific duties
- Administrative, management, and/or business skills may be useful
- Sales and/or marketing skills may be useful
- Excellent communication skills
 - ❖ Practice sites: pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies

Infectious Disease Pharmacist

- Ability to work one-on-one with individual patients, pharmacists, physicians and other clinicians
- Ability to conduct general antimicrobial drug reviews and participate in the development of antimicrobial drug use policies
- Research skills
- In-depth knowledge of antimicrobial pharmacology
 - ❖ Practice sites: research settings, hospitals, universities, government

Long-term Care Pharmacist

- Good communication skills and ability to interact well with people
- Ability to work as part of a healthcare team
- Must enjoy working with a geriatric community
 - ❖ Practice sites: nursing homes, hospitals, assisted-living facilities, psychiatric hospitals, home care, subacute care

Managed Care Pharmacist

- Ability to perform research and analyze results
- Willingness to work closely with physicians, case managers, and other care givers
- Business and management skills
- Ability to interact with clients and solve their problems
 - ❖ Practice sites: health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, care management programs

Military Pharmacist

- Ability to handle a lot of responsibility early in your career
- Desire for foreign travel and frequent moves
- Desire to work in and out of a hospital setting
 - ❖ Practice sites: army pharmacies, navy pharmacies, air force pharmacies, public health service pharmacies

Nuclear Pharmacist

- Ability to serve as a Radiation Safety Officer (training is needed in areas such as radiation physics, biology and radiopharmaceutical chemistry, followed by one year of experience as a radiation safety technologist)
- Training the handling of radioactive materials (can be obtained as part of PharmD or through company training)
- Ability to describe literature regarding radiopharmaceuticals to hospital and lab staff
 - ❖ Practice sites: specialized pharmacies, imaging centers, hospitals, universities

Nutrition Support Pharmacist

- Ability to work well with patients
- Ability to function as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- Creativity in designing treatments specific to a patient's needs
 - ❖ Practice sites: acute and subacute care facilities, ambulatory clinics, skilled nursing facilities, patients' homes

Oncology Pharmacist

- Board certification as an oncology pharmacist
- Caution and sensitivity to work in an area where experimental drug therapies are frequently used
- Ability to recognize the balance between improved survival and quality of life
 - ❖ Practice sites: hospitals, universities, cancer centers

Operating Room Pharmacist

- Ability to deal with emergency situations
- Thorough knowledge of anesthesia and surgery medications
- Basic understanding of the anesthesia machine and monitors
- Ability to function as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Willingness to learn on own
 - ❖ Practice sites: hospitals (operating room pharmacy satellites), ambulatory surgicenters

Pediatric Pharmacist

- Desire to work with children
- Strong oral and written communications skills
- Strong investigative, research, and problem-solving skills
 - ❖ Practice sites: children's hospitals, hospital, universities, cancer centers

Pharmacist in a Grocery Chain

- Strong customer service skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Business and management skills
 - ❖ Practice sites: supermarkets, corporate headquarters

Pharmacy Benefit Manager

- Strong business and management skills
- Ability to gather, analyze, and make decisions based on data
- Ability to multi-task
 - ❖ Practice sites: A corporate office setting

Poison Control Pharmacist

- Ability to communicate with healthcare professionals and the public over the telephone during crisis circumstances
- Knowledge of crisis intervention techniques
- Data entry and documentation skills
- Strong knowledge and interest in pharmacology and toxicology
 - ❖ Practice sites: poison control centers, hospitals, universities, consulting firms

Primary Care Pharmacist

- Ability to work alongside physicians and nurses as part of a primary healthcare team
- Written and oral communication skills
- Desire to be directly involved in patient care
 - ❖ Practice sites: general internal medicine clinics, primary care clinics, family medicine clinics, specialty clinics, universities

Psychiatric Pharmacist

- Ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team
- A broad knowledge of psychiatric disorders and treatments
- An interest in interacting with psychiatric patients
 - ❖ Practice sites: psychiatric hospitals, hospitals, universities, home health care, nursing home care, acute care facilities, ambulatory care facilities

Public Health Service Pharmacist

- Commitment to public health
- Willingness to work with medically underserved populations
- Ability to take on a variety of administrative and clinical roles
 - ❖ Practice sites: agency for healthcare research quality; bureau of prisons, centers for disease control & prevention, food & drug administration, health care financing administration, national institutes of health, office of emergency preparedness, immigration and naturalization service, substance abuse & mental health services administration, us agency for international development, us coast guard, Indian health service

Regulatory Pharmacist

- Project management/organizational skills
- Negotiation and communication skills
- Understanding of the scientific and technical background of products
- Willingness to keep up to date with regulatory policies and procedures
 - ❖ Practice sites: associations, government, consulting companies, pharmaceutical companies, universities

Veterinary Pharmacist

- Creativity and resourcefulness for dealing with a variety of animal patients and their owners
- Ability to work closely with veterinarians
- Strong knowledge base in pharmacy and the willingness to compound prescriptions
- Ability to solve problems, prepare products, teach and consult with healthcare workers and pet owners
 - ❖ Practice sites: specialized veterinary pharmacies; veterinary schools, animal clinics, animal hospitals, rescue centers universities, compounding pharmacies, chain pharmacies