

Pharmacists

SOC: 29-1051 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$137,480 Median Salary	335,100 Employment	+5.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Doctoral

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

5.8/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Compassion, Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills, Managerial skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Pharmacists dispense medications, provide health advice, and **ensure the safe and effective use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs**. They counsel patients, monitor treatment plans, and collaborate with healthcare providers. Their work is critical in healthcare, patient safety, and medication management.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy healthcare, science, and helping patients maintain or improve their health.

What Do Pharmacists Do?

These professionals review prescriptions, counsel patients, and manage medication therapy.

Common responsibilities include:

- Filling and dispensing prescriptions accurately
- Reviewing patient medication histories for interactions and contraindications
- Counseling patients on proper use, side effects, and storage of medications
- Collaborating with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers
- Monitoring patient treatment and adjusting therapy in consultation with healthcare teams
- Managing pharmacy inventory, records, and compliance with regulations
- Staying updated on new medications, treatments, and healthcare guidelines

Key Areas of Pharmacy Practice

Pharmacists may specialize in different practice areas:

- Community Pharmacy: Dispensing medications and counseling patients in retail settings
- Hospital and Clinical Pharmacy: Managing medication therapy for hospitalized patients
- Specialty Pharmacy: Providing drugs for chronic, complex, or rare conditions
- Consultant and Long-Term Care Pharmacy: Advising healthcare facilities on medication management
- Pharmaceutical Research and Education: Contributing to drug development and training healthcare professionals

Skills and Abilities Needed

Pharmacists combine scientific knowledge with communication, attention to detail, and clinical skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role requires formal education and licensure:

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree: Required for professional practice
- Internship or Residency: Practical clinical experience under supervision
- Licensure: Passing national and state examinations to practice legally
- Continuing Education: Maintaining knowledge of new medications, treatments, and regulations

Where Do Pharmacists Work?

They are employed in various healthcare and pharmaceutical settings:

- Retail and Community Pharmacies
- Hospitals and Clinics
- Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities
- Pharmaceutical Companies and Research Laboratories
- Consulting and Educational Institutions

Work environments include pharmacies, hospital wards, labs, and office settings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires strong attention to detail, scientific knowledge, and the ability to handle responsibility for patient health and safety. Pharmacists must accurately dispense medications and provide guidance on complex treatments.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy science, medicine, and patient care
- Have strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Can communicate effectively with patients and healthcare teams
- Are detail-oriented and ethical
- Want a career ensuring safe and effective medication use

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, chemistry, and health sciences
- Gain experience through internships or volunteer work in healthcare settings
- Develop strong communication, analytical, and organizational skills
- Research pharmacy schools and professional pathways
- Stay informed on advances in medications, treatments, and healthcare regulations

Pharmacists safeguard patient health by managing medications, counseling patients, and ensuring safe and effective therapeutic outcomes.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacists.htm>