

What does it take to become a **PHARMACIST ASSISTANT**?

Duties will vary depending on whether the Pharmacist Assistant works in a retail or hospital pharmacy, They work alongside licensed pharmacists and pharmacist technicians to help prepare and process prescriptions to inpatients, healthcare providers, outpatients and customers. Assistants' duties are typically clerical and organisational in nature and might include answering phones, filling out and filing paperwork, running cash registers and stocking shelves. They also receive and input prescription orders into system, liaise with healthcare providers to ensure prescription information accuracy, monitor and maintain inventory of medicines and pharmaceutical supplies, and place orders for required inventory.

Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in mathematics and science are considered useful. Attention to detail, accuracy, excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong customer-service orientation, planning and organisational skills, sound judgment and decision-making, confidentiality and being able to work in a team setup, are important skills to possess.



Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions to acquire industry-regulated certification. Training curricula covers aspects such as sterile product preparation, drug and medicine regulations and medical and pharmaceutical terminology. Training also

focuses on administrative and clerical procedures and systems, inventory management and relevant computer applications. Amassing industry experience is of utmost importance in building resumes, as employers prefer well-experienced workers.

Working Conditions

Pharmacist Assistants employed by dispensing pharmacists usually work shifts, whereas those employed by medical laboratories and medical aid funds tend to keep to normal business hours. Employers attach significant importance to quality, hygiene and safety and it is important for assistants to adhere to such requirements.

Job Prospects

Pharmacist assistants typically work in medical clinics, hospitals, offices of healthcare professionals, nursing homes, optical retail stores, pharmacies, medical laboratories. Other related industry occupations include Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant or Optical Dispenser.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Pharmacist Assistant. If you possess strong organisational skills and are methodical and service-oriented, you are a good candidate.

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