

Pharmacy Schools

New South Wales

Charles Sturt University
Orange

The University of Newcastle
Newcastle

The University of Sydney
Camperdown

University of New England
Armidale

University of New South Wales
Kensington

University of Technology Sydney
Ultimo

Australian Capital Territory

University of Canberra
Bruce

Queensland

James Cook University
Cairns, Townsville and Mackay

University of Queensland
St. Lucia

Griffith University
Southport

Queensland University of Technology
Gardens Point

University of Southern Queensland
Toowoomba

South Australia

Adelaide University
Adelaide

Northern Territory

Charles Darwin University
Darwin

Tasmania

University of Tasmania
Hobart, Launceston and Burnie

Victoria

LaTrobe University, Bendigo
Bendigo

Monash University
Parkville

RMIT University
Bundoora

Western Australia

Curtin University of Technology
Perth

University of Western Australia
Perth

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Your guide to a career in pharmacy

Your future starts here. Discover pharmacy.

What is a pharmacist?

To many people, a pharmacist is someone who wears a white coat and works behind a counter filling prescriptions, or providing advice to treat a wide range of ailments. But they are much more. Pharmacists are expected to have an extensive knowledge of the medicines and health products available.

Consumers put great faith in the professional skills of their pharmacist to provide health advice and services. In fact, pharmacy is one of the most trusted professions in Australia and has had a strong presence in the community for more than 150 years.

Pharmacy is more than preparing or dispensing drugs. The profession reaches far beyond this to include a wide range of professional services and advice. Although some areas of pharmacy are not widely recognised, they often contribute to the better running of our everyday lives.

Being a pharmacist

Pharmacists work in a number of different settings which include:

- community pharmacy
- hospitals
- clinics
- home health care facilities
- long-term care facilities
- military
- public health service
- veterans administration
- local
- state
- federal government
- association management
- consultant pharmacy
- pharmaceutical sales and marketing
- drug research and development
- universities and numerous other settings



*Pharmacy is your future.
Are you part of it?*

Different kinds of pharmacists

Some of the most obvious areas in which a pharmacist may choose a career include:

The **Community Pharmacist** who is involved in dispensing prescriptions, administering vaccines and other medicines, providing advice on drug selection and usage to doctors and other health professionals, providing primary health-care advice and support, and educating customers on health promotion, disease prevention and the proper use of medicines. They usually have a high level of contact with the public and are usually regarded as the public face of the profession.

The **Consultant Pharmacist** who is either employed by community pharmacies or hospitals, or who is self-employed and contracts with community pharmacies to provide medication reviews for residential care or ambulatory care patients and/or other medication-related cognitive services.

The **Hospital Pharmacist** who operates as part of a healthcare team and is involved in monitoring medication usage, counselling patients, providing drug information and advice to health professionals and the community, conducting clinical trials and preparing products for patient use. They usually have a lot of contact with other health professionals and members of the public.

The **Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist** who works alongside the team of health professionals at an aged care home. They conduct medicine reviews to optimise treatments and reduce the risk of medicine-related harms for residents. They also develop policies and procedures around medicine use and provide education to staff.

The **General Practice Pharmacist** who works directly and collaboratively with GPs and other health professionals to support the quality use of medicines. They undertake medicine reviews and provide medicine advice to patients, conduct clinical audits and provide education to GPs and other practice staff.

The **Industrial Pharmacist** who is involved in research and the development, manufacture, testing, analysis and marketing of pharmaceutical and medical products.

Being a **locum pharmacist** permits pharmacists to practise in a variety of settings, without a long-term commitment to any single location or a set roster. Being a locum can provide wonderful opportunities for travel to exotic locales across Australia and beyond. Others may choose to locum closer to home to facilitate a degree of work-life balance.

There are many opportunities abroad for Australian pharmacists which range from fulltime employment to aid work and some locum or temporary positions. Many young pharmacists still have the urge to get out and see some of the world and pharmacy offers many opportunities to do this. Because Australian pharmacists are highly trained, their skills are in great demand in many parts of the world.

A career in **academia** can follow a number of different paths and include teaching and research. To be a lecturer at a university you need a PhD but there are also positions as teacher practitioners at university pharmacy schools. Teacher practitioners may work part-time at the university, a few days per week, and often have jobs in community or hospital pharmacy as well.

Rural pharmacy offers a different 'feel' than pharmacy in metropolitan and major regional areas, whether the practice site is community or hospital based. Rural pharmacists often express a feeling of being close to patients, and of having friendly and open access to other health-care practitioners, especially GPs and medical specialists.

What do pharmacists do?

A pharmacist may perform the following tasks:

- prepare or supervise the dispensing of medicines
- advise patients on how their medicines are to be taken or used in the safest and most effective way
- administer vaccines and other medicines
- prescribe medicines for the treatment of minor ailments and some chronic health conditions.
- advise members of the public and other health professionals about medicines (both prescription and over-the-counter medicines), including appropriate selection, dosage and drug interactions, potential side effects and therapeutic effects
- select, give advice on and supply non-prescription medicine, sickroom supplies and other products
- develop legally recognised standards, and advise on government controls and regulations concerning the manufacture and supply of medicines
- work in the research and development of medicines and other health-related products
- be involved in the management of pharmaceutical companies

How do I become a pharmacist?

The field of pharmacy is broad, challenging and highly competitive across all areas of practice. For those with talent, commitment and a strong work ethic, it offers significant opportunities within a respected and rewarding profession.

Steps:

1. Study chemistry, mathematics, biology and other appropriate courses in high school. You should check with the university course pre-requisites.
2. Obtain your Pharmacy degree from one of the many courses available in Australia.
3. Participate in an internship under the direction of a registered pharmacist to become qualified to practice pharmacy.
4. Pass registration requirements.
5. Continue your professional development through continuing education.

