

# PHARMACY - A Prescription for a Rewarding Career

## Why Pharmacy?

- **A well-rounded career.** Pharmacy is an exciting blend of science, health care, direct patient contact, computer technology, and business.
- **A vital part of the health care system.** Pharmacists play a vital role in improving patient care through the medicine and information they provide.
- **Excellent earning potential.** Pharmacy is one of the most financially rewarding careers.
- **Outstanding opportunities.** There is an unprecedented demand for pharmacists in a wide variety of occupational settings.
- **A trusted profession.** Pharmacists are consistently ranked as one of the most highly trusted professionals because of the care and service they provide. *\*According to data by Gallup International*

## Pharmacy Career Options

- Academic pharmacy
- Community pharmacy
- Government agencies
- Hospice and home care
- Hospital and institutional practice
- Long-term care or consulting pharmacy
- Managed care pharmacy
- Medical and scientific publishing
- The pharmaceutical industry
- Trade or professional associations
- Uniformed (public health) service

## Pharmacists Help Patients Get Well

While responsibilities vary among the different areas of pharmacy practice, the bottom line is that pharmacists help patients get well. Pharmacist responsibilities include a range of care for patients, from dispensing medications to monitoring patient health and progress to maximize their response to the medication. Pharmacists also educate consumers and patients on the use of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, and advise physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals on drug decisions. Pharmacists also provide expertise about the composition of drugs, including their chemical, biological, and physical properties and their manufacture and use. Pharmacists ensure drug purity and strength and make sure that drugs do not interact in a harmful way. They are the drug experts ultimately concerned about their patients' health and wellness.

## Shortage of Pharmacists

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report in 2000 titled "The Study of the Supply and Demand for Pharmacists" to determine to what extent a shortage of pharmacists exists. The report concludes that there is an increasing demand for pharmacists' service that is outpacing the current and future pharmacist supply. The report also states that factors causing the shortage are not likely to abate in the near future.

## Your Future in Pharmacy Begins with Education

A balanced and comprehensive high school and college education is an important first step in the pursuit of a professional degree in pharmacy, especially in the areas of math and science. The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program requires at least two years of pre-professional (undergraduate) study followed by four academic years of professional study. The majority of first-year students enter a pharmacy program with three or four years of college experience. The requirements for admission into a pharmacy program vary.

## Don't delay...find out more today!

Visit the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy web site for more information about career opportunities and links to all U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy. <http://www.aacp.org>

