

What does a pharmacist do?

Pharmacists are experts on medicines. They prepare, mix and dispense medicines that doctors prescribe for patients. They share information with patients about how to manage their health and help ensure patients know how to take their medication properly.

Other roles in pharmacy include pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants. Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists to prepare and give out medicines, while pharmacist assistants help pharmacists and pharmacy techs, and are usually the first point of contact for customers. They advise customers on basic health and beauty care.

Salary

Pharmacists with up to five years' experience usually earn \$45,000 to \$75,000 per year. Those with more than five years' experience usually earn \$75,000 to \$105,000 per year.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Chemistry
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Maths
- ❖ Physics

How do I get into it?

To become a pharmacist you need five years of training. You need to:

- ✓ Complete a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Auckland or University of Otago
- ✓ Complete an internship of one year working in a hospital or community pharmacy
- ✓ Register with the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand.

For specialist roles, such as a pharmacist prescriber, you must complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy in Prescribing from the University of Auckland or a Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing from the University of Otago.

Interpersonal Skills

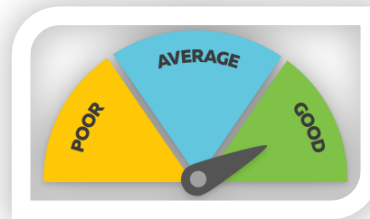
A pharmacist must be:

- ❖ honest and efficient
- ❖ responsible and careful, particularly when dealing with dangerous drugs
- ❖ able to work within a professional code of ethics, keeping information confidential

❖ good at maths and record-

keeping skills

Useful experience for pharmacists includes pharmacy technician or assistant work, any customer service, and any work in the health industry.



Will I get a job after training?

Chances of getting a job as a pharmacist are good due to an ageing population, an increase in long-term conditions such as diabetes, and a demand to take some primary care work from doctors. Pharmacists mostly work in community pharmacies and may also work for public hospitals, universities and the pharmaceutical industry.

Where can I find out more?

- **Pharmaceutical Society of NZ**
(04) 802 0030 <https://www.psnz.org.nz/>