

PHARMACY SERVICES

NATURE OF THE WORK

Pharmacists supervise the compounding and dispensing of prescribed medicines; check prescriptions for the proper dosages; maintain registries of poisons and narcotics; maintain medication profiles of clients, with responsibility for ensuring that prescriptions are appropriate for each client. They also advise healthcare professionals on the proper selection and use of medicines.

Pharmacy Technicians provides technical assistance to the Pharmacist. The technical assistance is comprised of such duties, as packing prescriptions, ward stock drug supplies, manufacturing (pre-packing and compounding), and preparation of both sterile and non-sterile pharmaceuticals and computer input to patient profile.

HIGH SCHOOL PREREQUISITES (Pharmacists)

- Students will have completed a minimum of five university preparatory grade XII level courses with an overall average of 60 percent or higher and no individual grade below 60 percent.
- Grade XII academic English with a grade level of 65 percent or higher and grade XI academic mathematics are required together with at least two grade XII courses from the following: biology, chemistry, global geography, global history, mathematics, modern languages and physics.
- The remaining two grade XII subjects may be taken from the above or from other university preparatory subjects approved by the provincial department of education and acceptable to the University/College where the program of study is offered. Those courses include: accounting, computer-related studies, economics, geography, geology, law, modern world problems, home economics (human ecology), music, political science and sociology.

UNIVERSITY LEVEL PREREQUISITES

- You must first be admitted to a Bachelor of Science program at the university level and have completed a full year of study.
- During your first year of study, you will take the prerequisite courses for admission to the pharmacy program and may apply to enter the College of Pharmacy the following year.
- Admissions process is highly competitive and only those with high academic standing are considered for entry each year.
- Prerequisite courses include the successful completion of the following first year Dalhousie courses (or their equivalents from another university).
- Chemistry 1011.03 and 1012.03, or 1041.03 and 1042.03, or 1021.03 and 1022.03, or 1500.06 or equivalent (one full year)
- Calculus 1000.03 and 1010.03 (one full year)
- Biology 1000.06 or equivalent (one full year)
- One Humanities or Language (one full year)*
- One Social Science (one full year)
*Either the Humanities/Language or Social Science must be a writing course.
- An overall minimum average of 70% is required in any prerequisite course.
- You must also achieve an acceptable score on the Pharmacy College Admissions test.

Interview Process – Post Academic Evaluation

After an initial screening procedure based on academic achievement, the top candidates will be invited for an orientation/interview session that assesses non-academic skills and qualities.

Assessment of Non-academic skills or qualities

- People skills
- Communication skills.
- Personal effectiveness.
- Helping/service orientated.
- Professional attitude.
- Problem-solving skills

THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED (Pharmacist)

Dalhousie University offers a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy.

Contact Information

Dalhousie University
Henry Hicks Academic Administration
Building, Room 133
Halifax NS B3H 4H6

Admissions Coordinator: Pat MacDonald
Telephone: 902-494-3824
Fax: 902-494-1396
E-mail: pharmacy@dal.ca

EARNING POTENTIAL

Pharmacist Salary Scale – 2008
\$63,221 - \$77,065

REQUIREMENTS

Pharmacists need a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and a period of supervised, practical training or apprenticeship.

Pharmacists must also successfully complete the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada examinations and be licensed with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists before they can practice.

PREREQUISITES (Pharmacy Technicians)

- High school diploma with academic grade 11 mathematics and grade 11 academic chemistry.

THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED (Pharmacy Technician)

Nova Scotia Community College offers a thirty-seven (37) week certificate program in Pharmacy Technology at their Institute of Technology Campus (Halifax).

Contact Information

Nova Scotia Community College, Institute of Technology
5685 Leeds Street, PO Box 2210
Halifax, NS B3J 3C4
Telephone: 902-491-6722
Fax: 902-491-4800
Email: inadmissions@nsc.ca
www.nsc.ca

Success College offers a fourteen (14) month certificate program in Pharmacy Technology at their Truro, Halifax and Moncton campuses.

Contact Information

Success College – Truro Campus

100 Victoria Street

Truro, NS B2N 1Y8

Telephone: 902-893-2400

Fax: 902-893-7875

Email: truro@thinksuccess.ca

www.thinksuccess.ca

EARNING POTENTIAL

Pharmacy Technician Salary Scale – 2008

\$34,267 - \$38,819

GENERAL

To work in this field, you should have an interest in chemistry and an aptitude for detail, precision and accuracy. Communication and interpersonal skills are essential. You must be patient and able to deal with people in a mature, tactful and responsible way. Supervisory, management and problem-solving skills are necessary. Computer skills are also important.

For additional information please visit www.napra.org