



Behind the Counter in Pharmacy

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Pharmacy areas

- Outpatient / Retail Pharmacy
 - Pharmacy Clerks
 - Pharmacy Outpatient Pharmacy Technicians
 - Outpatient Pharmacists
- Hospital Pharmacy
 - Pharmacy Inpatient Technicians
 - Hospital Pharmacists

Outpatient Pharmacy



Hospital Pharmacy



STERILE
COMPOUNDING



Pharmacy practice differences

Outpatient Pharmacy (Retail)

- Set hours (i.e., 9am-5pm)
- Work in the Pharmacy
 - Pharmacists
 - Pharmacy Technicians
 - Pharmacy Clerks

Hospital Pharmacy

- Opened 24/7
- Work in the hospital
 - Pharmacists
 - Pharmacy Technicians
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Dieticians
 - Respiratory therapists
 - Other healthcare

Pharmacy Clerks

- Requirements:
 - Requires a HS diploma
 - Duties include:
 - Selling prescriptions and over the counter (OTC) medications to patients/members
 - Skills needed:
 - Must be able to type 30 WPM
 - Excellent customer service and communication skills
 - Learn computer system
 - Organized
 - Enjoys working with a team

Pharmacy Technicians

- **Requirements:**

- Completion of a Pharmacy Technician program (i.e., Community College- ~6-month program)
 - Completion of an externship (outpatient and hospital pharmacy)
- Upon graduation → apply for a Technician license through the California State Board of Pharmacy
- Skills needed:
 - Working knowledge of current drug forms, dosage strengths etc.
 - Good with calculations/math/problem solving
 - Enjoys working in a fast-paced environment
 - Excellent customer service skills

Pharmacy Technicians

- Duties include:
 - Preparing medications
 - Answering phone calls from patients, physicians, nurses.
 - Compounding/mixing medications
 - Delivering medications (in hospital)
 - Preparing medication kits/trays (in hospital)
 - Ordering medications
 - Medication inventory control
 - Assisting the Pharmacists

Pharmacists

- Requirements:
 - Must complete pre-pharmacy classes (Chemistry, Physics, Math related)→ 2-3 years or completion of a degree in the Science field (Chemistry, Biology etc.).
 - Completion of Pharmacy school→ 3–4-year programs
 - Degree is a Doctor of Pharmacy or Pharm.D.
 - Must pass the State Board exam to get a State Board of Pharmacy license to practice in California.
 - Additional training: Residency in specific Pharmacy areas or Board Certification in specialty areas (Pediatrics, Oncology etc.).

Pharmacists

- Skills needed:
 - Excellent communication and problem-solving skills
 - Enjoys working with patients and other healthcare professionals
 - Able to work in a fast-paced environment
 - Enjoys continuous learning → keeping up with drug therapies
- Duties include:
 - Educating patients
 - Ensuring medication orders are accurate and complete
 - Answering medication related questions from physicians, nurses or other medical staff
 - Checking pharmacy technician's work
 - Oversight of the pharmacy

Additional opportunities

- Certification in medical translation (Spanish, Chinese etc.).
- Other Pharmacist opportunities:
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Industry
 - Leadership

Next steps

- The future of the Pharmacy profession.
- Opportunities for advancement.
- If interested, visit a pharmacy or volunteer.

Questions?

- Thank you for attending.

