



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Pharmacist

Pharmacists are specialists in the science and clinical use of medications. Pharmacists have to understand how drugs work in the body, as well as the chemical composition and other physical properties of drugs. For each prescription dispensed, pharmacists must confirm that the information provided by the prescriber is complete, that

the new medication will not interact with other medications taken, and that the medication and dosage are appropriate for the health condition being treated. In outpatient settings, pharmacists educate patients on special storage conditions and how to take the medication.

Pharmacist Facts:

Where do pharmacists work in Alaska?

In Alaska, pharmacists work in hospitals, nursing homes, private and chain drug stores, and with the Indian Health Service.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in chemistry and biology.
- A minimum of two years of accredited college work prior to entering pharmacy school.
- Graduation from a four-year pharmacy school awarding the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. Generally the first 3 years consist of classroom work and labs while the 4th year consists of internships in various pharmacy settings.
- Though not a requirement, many students are going on to do residencies after graduation. Residencies are available in both community and hospital settings. Many hospitals require a residency in order to be hired.
- Must pass two exams: NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam-a knowledge exam) and MPJE (Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam- a law exam)
- Alaska requires a license to practice as a pharmacist.
- Pharmacists are required to obtain 30 hours of continuing education every 2 years to maintain their license.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$40.59-\$70.50 (Mean \$56.76)
**based on Alaska DOL dsts*

Years in School:

6-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no accredited schools in Alaska. To learn more about colleges of pharmacy in the U.S. contact:

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

20 North Clark Street, Suite 2500

Chicago, IL 60602-5109

Phone: (312) 664-3575

Fax: (312)664-4652

email: info@acpe-accredit.org

Web site: <http://www.acpe-accredit.org/students/programs.asp>

State Contacts:

Alaska Pharmacists Association

Phone: (907) 563-8880

Email: akphrmcy@alaska.net

Web site: <http://www.alaskapharmacy.org>

National Contacts:

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

Phone: (202) 628-4410

Toll free: (800) 237-2742

Web site: <http://www.pharmacist.com/>

