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**Pharmacist Career – An Inside Look**

**By Scott Knutson**

Known for centuries as chemists, pharmacists have become as important and personalized as the family physician for many people. Every aspect of pharmacy has certainly evolved over the last one hundred years. Becoming a pharmacist has also changed; it is an easy career to get on track and is also a great career opportunity.

A person might wonder just exactly what it is that a pharmacist does or how to begin earning a pharmacist degree? The answers are easy to find. Finding a school that offers pharmacy courses is the first thing you need to do. Being confident the courses interest you on a basic level.

A pharmacist has many duties. Dispensing drugs that physicians prescribe to patients is the obvious job of any pharmacist. Pharmacists educate consumers about medications. Sometimes a pharmacist will also advise a physician as to drug interactions and effects. As a pharmacist your customers become like loyal followers trusting your knowledge and awareness. Pharmacists maintain medical records and medications in order to be certain a patient is not mixing drugs that are not suitable to mix.

Pharmacist can also manage or even own a pharmacy and that includes taking on responsibilities such as hiring and firing personnel. There are times when a pharmacist will also have to supervise employees when in an ownership or managerial position.

A pharmacist's duties vary greatly and encompass aspects of pharmacy and medicine that one would not traditionally think about initially.

Pharmacists are trained to be involved in drug therapies. These therapies can include such specialty fields as oncology and intravenous nutrition support. So if you are looking for an exciting career choice that holds many rewarding challenges, earns you great money, and takes very little training, then pharmacy is the field for you.

The training you will need in order to be considered a pharmacist begins with your graduation as a Doctor of Pharmacy or PharmD from any accredited higher learning institution. You will also need to serve a predetermined amount of time under a licensed pharmacist in order to be considered a

pharmacist your self.

In an overview of what a pharmacist is responsible for it may at first seem a daunting undertaking. In the long run though the benefits far outweigh any trepidation you may first experience. Traditionally pharmacists work in community pharmacies. Some pharmacists, close to one-quarter of all licensed pharmacists, are employed in local hospitals or clinics. Mail order or wholesale pharmaceutical needs employ the smallest portion of pharmacists.

Typically a pharmacist works a forty-hour week. Depending on whether a pharmacist is self-employed or employed in a managerial position the hours worked can be as much as fifty hours a week. As with any medical field-type position there is a shortage of pharmacists so there may be cases where the workload and hours worked will exceed what is typical.

Salaries for pharmacists vary due to elements such as geographical location, the amount of experience you have under your belt, and the level of education you have completed. It would be typical that pharmacists as an overall career choice earn a salary of close to eighty thousand dollars yearly.

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### **"Is Your Career Your Calling or Just a 9 to 5?"**

**By Yasmeen Abdur-Rahman**

Do you remember your parents asking you what you want to be when you grow up? By the time I was in the 9th grade, my mother started asking me that same question until I graduated from high school. At that time I wasn't 100% sure what career path I would take, but I had several ideas.

Your calling is that passion that you have deep inside - the career that defines your purpose in life. Someone once told me if you find a job that you love you'll never have to work a day in your life. Some of us work in careers for so long that we are numb on the inside and outside. We go from appointment to appointment and our days are so mundane. We hardly get any enjoyment out of what we do because it is just another 9 to 5. Have you recently said, 'I could do this job with my eyes closed?'

## Pharmacist Career – An Inside Look

People who choose a career, instead of their calling, wake up disappointed that they have to go to work. They hate facing another day. If you find your calling and pursue it, life will become an adventure and not just another 9 to 5.

Ponder over these statements: Your passion directs you to your calling. A calling is who you are. A career is what you do. A calling is 24–7–365. A career is a 9 to 5. A calling is what you would do for free. A career is what they have to pay you to do. A calling cannot be measured with money or fame.

In conclusion, take a few moments to ponder over what is going on in your life today and figure out if it compensates towards your calling. Listen to your mind, body and soul. Don't worry about what others will think or even if they will agree to whatever calling you move towards. Live your life as if tomorrow is your last day on Earth. Enjoy today because tomorrow isn't definite.

This article was written by Yasmeen Abdur–Rahman, Lifestyle Entrepreneur Coach and owner of The Brownstone Workshop located in Cary, NC. If you would like to copy this article, please include the author's credentials. If you are interested in a full, detailed description of lifestyle entrepreneur coaching™ services, kindly go to

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