



CAREER PROFILES

Pharmacists:

Community **Pharmacists** and hospital **Pharmacists** compound and dispense prescribed pharmaceuticals and provide consultative services to both clients and healthcare providers. This is an interactive process in which Pharmacists identify patient needs, review the patient's medical conditions and medications, and recommend and/or dispense medication to address a medical condition. Industrial **Pharmacists** participate in the research, development, promotion, and manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

Wage/Salary Information:

\$94,900 is the median annual salary found in local job-postings.

\$52.50/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Oral and written communication
- Management
- Problem solving
- Marketing
- Detail oriented
- Critical thinking
- Work independently
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Microsoft Office
- Time management
- Organizational skills
- Presentation
- Customer service oriented
- Self-motivated
- Decision making
- Bilingual
- Computer use
- Analytical

Job Duties:

Community Pharmacists and hospital Pharmacists compound prescribed pharmaceutical products by calculating, measuring, and mixing the quantities of drugs and other ingredients required and filling appropriate containers with correct quantity. Community Pharmacists and

hospital Pharmacists dispense prescribed pharmaceuticals to customers or to other health care professionals and advise them on indications, contra-indications, adverse effects, drug interactions, and dosage. They maintain medication profiles of customers including registry of poisons, narcotics, and controlled drugs and order and maintain stock of pharmaceutical supplies. Community Pharmacists and hospital Pharmacists also ensure proper preparation, packaging, distribution, and storage of vaccines, serums, biologicals, and other drugs and pharmaceuticals and advise customers on selection and use of non-prescription medication.

Industrial Pharmacists participate in the research of new drugs, formulate new drug products developed by medical researchers, test new drug products for stability and to determine absorption and elimination patterns, and co-ordinate clinical investigations of new drugs. Industrial Pharmacists control the quality of drug products during production to ensure that they meet standards of potency purity, uniformity, stability, and safety. They develop information materials concerning the uses, properties, and risks of particular drugs and evaluate labelling, packaging, and advertising of drug products. Industrial Pharmacists also promote pharmaceutical products to health professionals.

Working Conditions:

Most Pharmacists work approximately 40–50 hours per week. However, they may be required to work longer hours if they are self-employed or if they work in locations that are understaffed. Part-time employment is common among Pharmacists nearing retirement.

Because of the current shortage of Pharmacists, trained Pharmacy Technicians now prepare and dispense most medications, while Pharmacists focus on disease assessment and management of patient care.

Technological advancements are leading to increased automation, further reducing the amount of time Pharmacists spend preparing and dispensing medications.

Pharmacists work in a professional environment that requires Pharmacist–patient confidentiality. They spend the majority of their work day standing, which can result in back strain. The preparation of medicines can be meticulous work, involving measuring out small quantities of hazardous compounds and conducting calculations. This work may require Pharmacists to wear safety goggles, aprons and gloves, and to use fume hoods. Pharmacists must stay alert at all times in order to maintain a safe working environment and to ensure patient safety through the proper preparation of medications.

Pharmacists use computers to assess and store patient information, drug information and educational information. Extended use of computers can cause eye strain.

The internet has increased the amount of drug-related information available to the public, creating more informed consumers and patients. Pharmacists are often asked to verify information and are required to answer detailed questions about different treatments and medications.

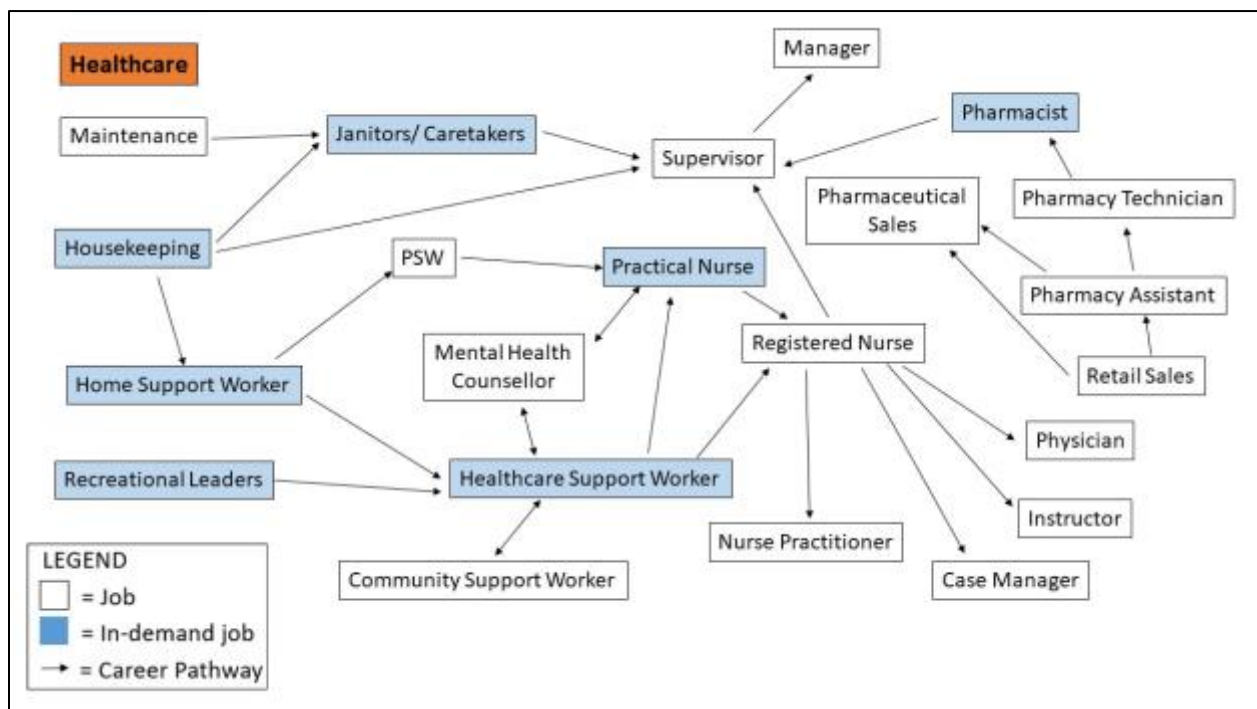
Career Pathways:

Recent graduates typically obtain employment as staff Pharmacists, therapeutic specialists or store managers in a retail environment, with hospitals, health authorities or the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacists working in retail outlets may eventually open their own practice or be promoted to an executive management position within a retail pharmacy chain. Pharmacists working for pharmaceutical companies can advance to become lead researchers within the company and may eventually move into an executive position.

Hospital Pharmacists may move into supervisory positions, specialize in a particular area of clinical pharmacy, become information specialists or move into hospital administration (for example, becoming regional directors). Some Pharmacists who pursue education beyond a bachelor's degree may eventually become pharmacy educators and researchers at universities. Experienced Pharmacists may also move into government administrative positions.

Pharmacists are employed in pharmaceutical companies and government departments and agencies. Below are potential career pathways for Pharmacists:

- Clinical Pharmacist
- Community Pharmacist
- Drug Information Pharmacist
- Druggist
- Hospital Pharmacist
- Industrial Pharmacist
- Pharmacist
- Retail Pharmacist



Education and Training Pathways:

Currently, in Ontario, there are only two postsecondary programs graduating licensed pharmacists. Both of the schools are located outside of Windsor-Essex. If you are interested in becoming a Pharmacist, please contact the University of Waterloo or the University of Toronto to learn more about their respective programs.