What can I do with my Major?

PHARMACY STUDIES AND DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

The field of pharmacy offers more opportunities in all fields of health care and medical research in both staff and management positions. Regardless of experience or practice setting, pharmacists share a collective purpose of making sure that each of their patients uses medications as effectively and safely as possible.

The Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies is awarded in the course of study for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The baccalaureate degree, without completion of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, does not qualify students to sit for the licensure exam. Only students who are admitted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Professional Program receive the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies degree.

To practice as a pharmacist, one must complete a 6-year Doctor of Pharmacy program and pass a licensing exam. Additionally, there are continual learning opportunities during one’s career, with an emphasis on drug information, patient education, and consultation services. Pharmacists must also complete a minimum number of continuing-education units each year to qualify for re-licensure. One will need to keep pace with continual changes in computer technology, health and pharmaceutical research, management, and more.

NATURE OF WORK

The nature of the work is dependent on the environment of one’s employment, but the expertise used is similar. Pharmacy work requires the unique skills developed through schooling and experience. Community pharmacists encounter more people in an average day than any other health practitioner and must be prepared with physical and mental endurance. Pharmacists in hospital practice interact with other healthcare professionals. Researchers have the opportunity to work more independently in a quiet laboratory environment. Pharmacy professors communicate with students and fellow faculty in the efforts of education and research. Administrative and management duties may be included in any employment position.

OTHER RESOURCES

American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists
American Pharmacist Association
Connecticut Pharmacist Association