



ST. ANN'S ACADEMY

POST-SECONDARY UPDATE

Information for High School Students and Parents

EDUCATION & CAREER PROFILE: Pharmacist



THE PATH TO BECOMING A PHARMACIST IS NOW ANOTHER YEAR LONGER

For students interested in science and health care related careers, one of the more popular choices in recent years has been Pharmacy. Not only is it a more 'science' focused career path, it's also been attractive because it took much less time to complete; five years, as opposed to eight or more years to become a doctor. HOWEVER, THAT'S CHANGED A BIT.

PHARMACY: SIX YEARS OF UNIVERSITY

Like the health care world itself, the route to becoming a Pharmacist has become more complex; it's now a six-year university journey and admission is even more challenging as the competition for the limited number of spaces increases.

*Pharmacy has grown more complex in recent years, and the scope of practice for pharmacists has expanded. We have developed our Entry-to-Practice **PharmD** program to address this complexity.*

– UBC Pharmacy Website

The new 'Entry-to-Practice Doctor of Pharmacy' degree program, as UBC calls it, is essentially a 6-year program and at all 10 universities in Canada where pharmacy is offered, the four-year Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy has been replaced with the new Doctor of Pharmacy [PharmD] degree.

The new PharmD degree is a four-year program and the admission requirements have increased, requiring two full years of university sciences before students can apply. Unlike the PhD that focuses on research, the PharmD is an undergraduate clinical degree, more often referred to as an undergraduate professional degree.

What is driving the change?

In 2010, the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC) committed to "replacing current baccalaureate pharmacy curricula with a comprehensive doctor of pharmacy curricula of foundation knowledge in the biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, practice skills training, and extensive clinical experiences for the first professional degree in pharmacy to ensure that graduates can enter practice to competently perform the enhanced patient care skills that will be expected of pharmacists."

In the constantly changing world of health care, professional pharmacists must now possess excellent interpersonal skills and extensive knowledge of medicine and its uses, as they take on an increasing amount of responsibility in the system, a reality that has driven the changes in the degree program.

Pharmacists are highly respected healthcare professionals who work with patients, their families and other members of the health care team. At present, there are about 33,000 licensed pharmacists in Canada; that's up from about 25,000 in 2005, according to Census data, and about 60% of pharmacists in Canada are women.

In terms of job locations, in addition to the many private sector pharmacies, some work in hospitals while others work for governments and universities. In terms of job prospects, our aging population and the evolving role of pharmacists could help to increase demand for people in this profession. Job growth will depend on the volume of prescriptions doctors hand out in coming years, as well as continued changes in the profession.

Some of that change is reflected in the new Doctor of Pharmacy program, and in some of the emerging graduate specialties for pharmacists.

The profession of pharmacy is regulated on a provincial and territorial level. The regulatory authorities are directly responsible for granting pharmacist licenses, assessing the competency of pharmacists and ensuring public safety. Licensing is a requirement in all provinces and territories for community and hospital pharmacists, according to the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

To become a licensed pharmacist in Canada, you first need a Doctor of Pharmacy [PharmD] degree from one of the Canadian universities offering the program; while ten universities offer pharmacy degrees in Canada, two of them are offered in French, and many programs give preference to applicants from their home province or region.

For students in BC, the UBC program should be their first choice to consider. The minimum requirements for admission will be the satisfactory completion of 60 credits [20 courses] of university transferable work, including specific courses in these fields: English; General Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Biology (Cell Biology); Biochemistry; Microbiology; Mathematics (Algebra or Calculus); and Statistics.

Do You Need to Attend UBC to get into UBC Pharmacy?

This is an interesting and oft debated question, more frequently in reference to medical schools, where there's a common misconception that the way to get into medical school is to attend a university that has a medical school. When it comes to medicine, this is not true, because you need to complete a four-year undergraduate degree first, and that degree can be done anywhere.

[NOTE: Students can apply to medical schools after three years of university with the required science prerequisite courses, but the U. of Alberta just recently changed their requirement to completion of a full four-year degree. Don't be surprised if the rest follow their lead.]

When it comes to Pharmacy, the big difference is that you only need two years of university sciences, and the key factor is the way in which each program states their admissions requirements because the stated course requirements can be very specific to each institution.

Admission requirements to UBC Pharmacy are stated in terms of the required UBC courses, with additional information for non-UBC students that includes the following statement:

"Prerequisite coursework must be for post-secondary credit and transferable to UBC. Due to the complexity of transfer credit evaluations, we are unable to provide a listing of acceptable courses, or provide pre-admission evaluations."

The bottom line, however, is that admission is based primarily on your GPA – your marks – no matter which university you attend. If a Kamloops student chooses to stay home and attend TRU to complete the prerequisite courses to apply for Pharmacy at UBC the two most important issues are: ensuring they take the right TRU science courses to meet the UBC course requirements; and getting the highest GPA possible.

The 20 most promising jobs in Canada for 2017

SOURCE: Daily Hive Online - Feb 15, 2017

LinkedIn, the world's largest professional networking site, has used three major criteria to determine the most promising jobs in Canada for 2017.

- Potential for career advancement
- Job Growth
- Salary.

The data used to compile the list includes information drawn from the member profiles of more than 12 million Canadians.

	Median Base Salary	Job Openings	Career Advancement Score (out of 10)
1. Registered Nurse TOP SKILLS: Basic Life Support, Patient Safety, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Critical Care	\$ 80,200	1,500+	4.0
2. Business Development Manager TOP SKILLS: Sales Management, Account Management, Business Strategy, Negotiation, and Marketing	\$ 77,000	250+	8.0
3. Project Manager TOP SKILLS: Project Planning, Project Estimation, Contract Management, Value Engineering, Construction Management	\$ 84,000	2,000+	6.0
4. Marketing Manager TOP SKILLS: Social Media Marketing, Market Research, Advertising, Email Marketing, Brand Management	\$ 73,500	500+	8.0
5. Sales Manager TOP SKILLS: Negotiation, Account Management, Sales, B2B, Sales Operations, Business Development	\$ 77,800	1,000+	6.0
6. Financial Analyst TOP SKILLS: Accounting, Microsoft Excel, Financial Modeling, Variance Analysis, Forecasting	\$ 64,000	300+	9.0
7. Tax Manager TOP SKILLS: Corporate Tax, Tax Research, Tax Accounting, International Tax, Tax Advisory	\$ 91,000	100+	8.0
8. Business Analyst TOP SKILLS: Requirements Analysis, Business Requirements, Software Development Life Cycle, User Acceptance Testing	\$ 70,000	500+	8.0

9. Pharmacist	\$ 100,000	300+	4.0
TOP SKILLS: Medication Therapy Management, Community Pharmacy, Patient Counselling, Pharmacy Automation, Clinical Pharmacy			
10. Inside Sales Representative	\$ 49,100	300+	10.0
TOP SKILLS: Account Management, Sales, Customer Services, Sales Management			
11. Product Manager	\$ 82,000	150+	8.0
TOP SKILLS: Product Management, Product Marketing, Product Development, Product Launch, Competitive Analysis			
12. Front End Developer	\$ 60,000	300+	8.0
TOP SKILLS: CSS, jQuery, HMTL5, JavaScript, SASS			
13. Solutions Architect	\$ 100,000	150+	6.0
TOP SKILLS: Solutions Architecture, Enterprise Architecture, Service-oriented Architecture (SoA), Integration, Cloud Computing			
14. Software Engineer	\$ 73,000	500+	5.0
TOP SKILLS: JavaScript, C++, SQL, HTML, Linux			
15. Financial Manager	\$ 84,000	100+	8.0
TOP SKILLS: Financial Reporting, Financial Analysis, Accounting, Managerial Finance, Internal controls			
16. Quality Assurance Analyst	\$ 59,300	200+	8.0
TOP SKILLS: Requirement Analysis, Requirement Gathering, Visio, Software Development Life Cycle, Software Documentation			
17. System Engineer	\$ 86,500	100+	6.0
TOP SKILLS: Windows Server, VMware, Active Directory, Virtualization, Linux			
18. Human Resources Business Partner	\$80,000	50+	10.0
TOP SKILLS: Performance Management, Employee Relations, Employee Engagement, Recruiting, HR Policies			
19. Business System Analyst	\$75,000	100+	8.0
TOP SKILLS: Business Requirements, Requirement Gathering, Business Requirements, Visio, User Acceptance Testing			
20. Financial Services Manager	\$52,000	100+	10.0
TOP SKILLS: Financial Analysis, Financial Services, Banking, Finance, Financial Reporting, Risk Management			

IN THE NEXT ISSUE - The Highest Paying In-Demand Jobs in Canada for 2017

What will the most in-demand jobs in Canada be this year? It seems that most of them will be in the mining, oil and health industries. You don't necessarily need a degree to get some of these jobs but you do need some form of post-secondary education and training to acquire the right skills.

POST-SECONDARY ADVISING SUPPORT AT ST. ANN'S

Students and parents in high school at St. Ann's are invited and encouraged to take advantage of the post-secondary advising support available to them. Josh Keller, formerly of TRU, brings 28 years of post-secondary experience to us, and is available on Tuesdays each week, any time between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. To make an appointment just contact the front office.