



Pharmacy

The role of Pharmacists (including Pharmacy Technicians/Assistants) is to work as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team to ensure all medications are prescribed and administered in a safe and effective way.

What is a Pharmacist?

A pharmacist is a person who is qualified to dispense medications. They have knowledge of how medications work and advise both doctors and other members of the community on medication dosages, side effects, and how to take them. Pharmacists can work in various areas, including hospitals, community pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, academia, government agencies or Australian Defence Forces.

Some of the things that pharmacists do include –

- help optimise the use of medications and promote health awareness;
- monitor the progress of a patient's medication therapy;
- help manage side effects to medications;
- prepare and dispense medications;
- calculate medication doses;
- provide advice to patients about safe and effective use of their medications;
- give advice to other health professionals about optimal choice of medicines;
- manufacture medications (intravenous medications, creams, eye drops);
- conduct medication reviews in hospitals or at patient's homes or nursing homes;
- provide education and training to pharmacy students/interns and other healthcare professionals;
- work in research to develop new medicines and health related products; and
- work with the government to develop legal standards and regulations on the manufacture and supply of medicines.

With the expanding role of pharmacists in Australia, pharmacists are now qualified and trained to give influenza vaccinations to patients.



What studies do I need to undertake?

Pharmacy can be taken as an undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Pharmacy) or as a post-graduate degree (Master of Pharmacy) at various universities across Australia (check pre-requisites for each university). Undergraduate degrees are normally 4 years full-time. High school students are usually required to have taken subjects in mathematics and chemistry, while competency in the English language must also be demonstrated. The minimum ATAR score requirement for admission to a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree will depend on each university. Post-graduate degrees are normally 2 years full-time. Applicants will need to have completed a Bachelor degree, attained above average grades, and have completed certain tertiary level units such as physiology, chemistry, biochemistry, human biology, pharmacology, and mathematics.

What happens when I finish University?

Once you have attained a pharmacy degree, you will have to meet the requirements to be registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia. Initially pharmacy graduates will need to apply for “provisional” registration, allowing them to obtain an internship. During their internship (total of 1824 hours), interns will gain more experience, knowledge and practical experience in different areas under the guidance of a registered pharmacist. Interns must sit and pass the Pharmacy Board’s registration examinations prior to being able to work as a registered pharmacist. The exams comprise of two components: a written section and an oral section. After passing these 2 examinations, interns are then eligible to apply for “general” registration and become qualified to practice as a pharmacist in Australia. The following institutions offer pharmacy courses –

Undergraduate	Postgraduate
La Trobe University	University of Technology Sydney
James Cook University	The University of Sydney
The University of Queensland	Griffith University
RMIT University	The University of Western Australia
Monash University	University of Canberra
The University of Sydney	Curtin University
Griffith University	
University of South Australia	
Charles Sturt University	
Curtin University	
University of Newcastle	
Charles Darwin University	
University of Tasmania	
University of Canberra	
Queensland University of Technology	

