WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … PHARMACY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Pharmacists compound and dispense medications following prescriptions issued by physicians, dentists, or other authorized medical practitioners. Pharmacists advise patients on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
A license to practice pharmacy is required in all states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories. To obtain a license, the prospective pharmacist must graduate from a college of pharmacy that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and pass an examination. All states require the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX), which tests pharmacy skills and knowledge, and 43 states and the District of Columbia require the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE), which tests pharmacy law. Both exams are administered by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Pharmacists in the eight states that do not require the MJPE must pass a state-specific exam that is similar to the MJPE. Pharmacy programs are offered at both the bachelor and graduate level. At UNM, the degree offered is at the graduate level (Pharm.D).

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:
Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Areas of Practice: Clinical Pharmacy, Intravenous Nutrition Support, Oncology, Nuclear Pharmacy, Geriatric Pharmacy, Psychopharmacotherapy, Research, Public Health

Types of Employers: Hospitals, Nursing homes, Mental health institutions, Health clinics, Retail chains, Government agencies, Pharmaceutical companies, Health insurance firms, Universities.

Suggested Strategies: Choose an appropriate undergraduate major and include prerequisite courses required by the professional program, e.g. biology, chemistry, and physics, if they are not a requirement of the chosen major. Meet with a pre-health advisor periodically to discuss curricular decisions. Maintain a high grade point average, particularly in the sciences, to improve chances of admission to graduate or professional school. Get involved in the UNM Pre-Pharmacy Society. Volunteer, job shadow, or gain work experience in a pharmacy setting (e.g. a pharmacy technician).

State and National Wages (2006)

Pharmacists

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<th>Median</th>
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Pharmacy Technicians

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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Pharmacists Association
UNM College of Pharmacy
NM Pharmacists Association
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Technician Certification Board
National Pharmacy Technician Association

http://www.aacp.org
http://www.aphanet.org
pharmacy@salud.unm.edu
http://www.nm-pharmacy.com
http://www.nacds.org
http://www.nabp.net
http://www.ptcb.org
http://www.pharmacytechnician.org

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

http://online.onetcenter.org
http://www.bls.gov/oco/