

PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The following pharmacy organisations can be contacted for further information regarding pharmacy as a career, membership or services offered.

PIASA - Pharmaceutical Industry Association of South Africa

PO Box 12123, Vorna Valley, 1686, South Africa
Tel: +27 11 805 5100 Fax: +27 11 805 5105/9
E-mail: info@piasa.co.za

NAPM - National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

P.O. Box 57031, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0007
Tel: 012 323 7529 Fax: 012 323 7529 E-mail: napm@mweb.co.za
Website: www.napm.co.za

Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

PO Box 26039, Arcadia, 0007
Tel: +27 12 301 0820 Fax: +27 12 301 0828
E-mail: nitsa@pharmail.co.za

PSSA - Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

P O Box 26039, ARCADIA, 0007
Tel: (012) 301-0820 Fax: (012) 301-0828
E-mail: pssa@pharmail.co.za
Website: www.pssa.org.za

SAAHIP - South African Association of Hospital & Institutional Pharmacists

PO Box 26039, Arcadia, 0007, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 301 0820 Fax: +27 12 301 0836
E-mail: exec@saahip.org.za

SAAPI - South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry

Tel: (011) 442 3601 Fax: (011) 442 3661
E-mail: jackie.dring@serono.com

SAPSF - South African Pharmacy Students' Federation

Tel: 082 862 1423 E-mail: sapsfchairperson@yahoo.com
CPS - Community Pharmacists' Sector of the PSSA
PO Box 95123, Grant Park, 2051
Tel: (011) 728-6668 Fax: (011) 728-5988
E-mail: wendy@sarcdca.co.za

South African Progressive Pharmacists Association (SAPPA)

PO Box 1791, Westville, 3629
Tel: +27 31 461 3700 E-mail: shamm@iafrica.com

Department of Health

Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 312-0000 Fax: (012) 325-5706/326-4382
Website: www.health.gov.za

CONTACT DETAILS:

South African Pharmacy Council

Postal Address:

Private Bag X40040, Arcadia, 0007

Physical Address:

591 Belvedere Street, Arcadia, 0083

Customer Care line:

0861 SAPC 00 or 0861 7272 00

Fax no: 27 12 321 1479/92

E-mail: customercare@sapc.za.org

Website: <http://www.sapc.za.org>

CAREER AS A PHARMACIST IN SOUTH AFRICA

Information supplied by the South African Pharmacy Council

Quality Pharmaceutical
Services for all
the people in
South Africa



PROFESSION OF PHARMACY

What is pharmacy?

Pharmacy may be described as the science of dealing with the collection, preparation, standardisation, dispensing and storage of medicines, and is an exciting and dynamic profession that is dedicated to serving the healthcare needs of people and communities.

What is a pharmacist?

A pharmacist is a health professional who must earn a qualifying degree and be committed to high standards of competence and professionalism. Pharmacists are required to be specialists in the knowledge of medicine-related products, and need to continually further their education as new medicines and medical treatments develop.

Where do pharmacists work?

Pharmacists are a critical source of knowledge in the pharmaceutical industry, including retail outlets, hospitals, clinics, private and public healthcare institutions, community pharmacies, consultant pharmacies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical sales and marketing organisations, medical laboratories, research and training institutions, pharmaceutical education, and research and development institutions.

What does a pharmacist do?

The pharmacist is often the first point-of-contact for patients with health enquiries and plays an important role in preparing and dispensing medicines that have been prescribed by a health professional. Pharmacists provide information on prescription and over-the-counter medicines, healthcare supplies and products, and the safe and effective use of medicine.

Pharmacists also play a vital role in the development and manufacture of medicines, and in pharmaceutical research establishments, specialised medical institutions, and the academic fields of pharmaceutical education, training and development.

The pharmacist is regarded as being the:

- custodian of medicines;
- creator, manufacturer, distributor and controller of safe, effective and quality medicine;
- organiser of the procurement, storage and distribution of pharmaceutical materials and products;
- adviser on the safe, rational and appropriate use of medicine;
- promoter of community health and related information and advice;
- provider of prescription medicine;
- provider of pharmacist-initiated care to the patient, ensuring the best use of medicine;
- provider of essential clinical services, including screening (testing) and referral services;
- provider of education and information on healthcare and medicine;
- provider of pharmaceutical care by taking responsibility for actively managing a patient's illness and medicine to improve the health outcome for the patient ;
- provider of cost-effective and efficient pharmaceutical services.

Why pharmacy as a career?

Pharmacy is a people-orientated profession that is driven by the desire of highly skilled professionals to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities. Pharmacists are considered to be one of the most visible and accessible healthcare professionals in the healthcare field and are a trusted source of information on health remedies. A career in pharmacy, which is a vibrant profession that continually absorbs new advancements in medicine and medical knowledge, promises to be an exciting and rewarding career prospect in the healthcare industry.

PHARMACY TRAINING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Pharmacy training is provided by eight pharmacy schools that have been approved by the South African Pharmacy Council. This training consists of:

- four years of full-time study (which leads to the awarding of a B Pharm degree)
- one year of practical training followed by a pre-registration evaluation
- one year of community service as a registered pharmacist

The practical training period is of extreme importance for the pharmacy graduate (known as an intern) to gain practical experience and knowledge in the workplace. The practical training may be carried out in a community pharmacy, institutional pharmacy, manufacturing pharmacy, or at a provider of a qualification in pharmacy approved by Council.

After successful completion of the practical training and the pre-registration evaluation, the intern is registered as a pharmacist, and must complete one year of pharmaceutical community service in a public sector facility before he/she can practise independently as a pharmacist.

After completion of community service, a registered pharmacist may work in various categories of pharmacies e.g. community, institutional, manufacturing, wholesale and consultant pharmacies. A list of institutions that currently offer pharmacy education is included, and all enquiries regarding under-graduate and post-graduate studies should be addressed directly to these institutions.

Admission requirements

In most cases, a matriculation exemption certificate is a prerequisite for admission to the degree course. Individual institutions, however, set their own admission criteria and prospective applicants are advised to contact the institution of their choice with regard to the student selection procedure followed by the individual institution.

Registration with the South African Pharmacy Council

In order to practise as a pharmacist in South Africa, it is necessary to register as a pharmacist with the South African

Pharmacy Council. The Council is the body established by a statute of Parliament to control the pharmacy profession and performs its functions in terms of the Pharmacy Act 1974, (Act 53 of 1974) as amended.

The practice of pharmacy is conducted in the fields of community pharmacy, institutional pharmacy, wholesale pharmacy, manufacturing pharmacy and consultant pharmacy. There is also scope for an academic career for pharmacists with suitable additional qualifications, and many pharmacists pursue a career in administration.

One of the objectives of the Council is to control and promote pharmaceutical education and pharmacy practice in the Republic and to establish and maintain adequate standards in respect of education and pharmacy practice. The Council also plays an important role in controlling and maintaining the professional conduct of persons registered in terms of the Pharmacy Act, 1974.

Bursaries and Fees

Information regarding bursaries may be obtained from: The Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education PO Box 26039, Arcadia, 0007. Tel: 012-3010820; Fax: 012-3010 828; E-mail: nitsa@pharmail.co.za

The provincial departments of health also offer bursaries. Enquiries regarding bursaries and university fees must be directed to individual institutions. During the academic training, a candidate must register as a pharmacy student after successful completion of the first year of study. This registration enables him/her to work in a pharmacy under the supervision of a pharmacist. Such registration is cancelled when a candidate discontinues his/her studies.

UNIVERSITIES OFFERING BACHELOR OF PHARMACY (NQF LEVEL 8)

NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY	NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY
University of the Western Cape Tel: (021) 959 2190 Fax: (031) 959 3407 e-mail: smalan@uwc.ac.za Contact: Prof S Malan	North-West University Tel: (018) 299 2270 Fax: (018) 299 2225 e-mail: awie.kotze@nwu.ac.za Contact: Prof I Kotze
Rhodes University Tel: (046) 603 8382 Fax: (046) 636 1205 e-mail: R.B. Walker@ru.ac.za Contact: Prof RB Walker	University of KwaZulu-Natal Tel: (031) 260 7891 Fax: (031) 260 7792 e-mail: sulemanf@ukzn.ac.za Contact: Dr F Suleman
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Tel: (041) 504 2128 Fax: (041) 504 2744 e-mail: pieter.milne@nmmu.ac.za Contact: Prof P Milne	University of Limpopo (Turfloop Campus) Tel: (015) 268 2351 Fax: (015) 268 2523 e-mail: agous@ul.ac.za Contact: Prof Gous
University of Limpopo (Medunsa Campus) Tel: (012) 521 4080 Fax: (012) 521 3992 e-mail: agous@ul.ac.za Contact: Prof Gous	University of the Witwatersrand Tel: (011) 717 2369 Fax: (011) 642 4355 e-mail: michael.danckwerts@wits.ac.za Contact: Prof MP Danckwerts