

PHARMACY ASSISTANT > RETAIL

This program prepares students for an entry level pharmacy assistant position in a retail pharmacy. It provides theory, lab and practicum experiences to develop skills in pharmacy and a retail environment.

According to the 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, Albertans in the Other Assisting Occupations in Support of Health Services group earned from \$10.05 to \$29.90 an hour. The average wage was \$18.46 an hour.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

DISPENSING

This intensive course will provide a combination of hands-on labs and theory in a simulated Pharmacy Lab, teaching such skills as dispensing procedures, the workflow in a community pharmacy, customer relations, pricing / ordering / receiving, overview of pharmaceutical software, and third party plans and billing.

HISTORY, LAW AND ETHICS

This course will familiarize the student with the roles of the Pharmacy Assistant, Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacist, the profession of pharmacy and its place within the health care delivery system. This will include both a historical and current perspective. In addition, this course introduces the student to legislation governing the practice of pharmacy and to the professional standards and ethics.

HUMAN RELATIONS

This course will familiarize students with effective oral communication, customer service and written communication skills. This instructor lead course will allow students to examine the concepts of interpersonal communication and customer relations in a professional environment through oral and written exercises.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

This course enhances students' understanding of computers to develop a functional level of computer literacy. The course covers the computing system, and the information processing cycle. The students learn how a computer works by using the operating system in a hands-on lab setting, working through projects and common computing applications.

PHARMACY MATH

This course concentrates on teaching math calculations that will be used when preparing and dispensing medications.

PHARMACY PRACTICE

This course introduces the student to the general principles underlying the use of drugs, therapeutic and chemical drug classifications, the drugs used to treat disease states in various body systems and the mechanism of action of common drug groups.

PHARMACY SCIENCE

This course introduces the student to the basic concepts of medical terminology, physiology, and pathophysiology of the human body. It introduces common drug therapeutic classifications and common laboratory procedures.

THERAPEUTIC TERMINOLOGY

This course is designed to familiarize students with brand name and generic/chemical drug names and their therapeutic use.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

This course is designed around group activities to develop job-hunting techniques, to identify marketable education, training, and skills, and to recognize the uniqueness of your strengths. The course stresses assertiveness, the success of past students, and various strategies to reveal the hidden job market. You develop your own personal character profile and skills inventory to assist in marketing yourself through the use of covering letters and resumes. You will participate in mock interviews to evaluate your readiness for the job market.

PROGRAM & CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ **\$20,000 - \$59,800 wage range.**
- ✓ *Students participate in a hands-on, interactive learning environment*
- ✓ **Be a part of a career that is undergoing exciting career changes.**
- ✓ *Professional Opportunities: Students have found employment in retail, institutional and long term care pharmacies.**

**Additional training may be required at institutional and long term care pharmacies.*

