

Pharmacy as a Career Pathway

For every student with admiration for healthcare as a profession, pharmacy as an option is of worth consideration. Pharmacy deals with discovery, development and use of medication for patient's care. Pharmaceutical Industry is valued at Rs 1,00,000 crore and annually growing at 12%. It is the third largest in volume and 13th largest in domestic consumption value. It offers high opportunities of growth in the field of commercial roles, R & D and clinical studies/ trials. India is recognized as global hub for manufacturing, R & D work and clinical trials of new molecules. With advances in genetic engineering technology, biosimilars such as human insulin for diabetes, monoclonal antibodies for cancer treatment, have emerged having value of more than USD 5 billion per brand.

During graduation course in pharmacy, B. Pharm., a detailed journey of API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) from its synthesis till marketing to the consumers in the finished form such as tablet, syrup, injectable or topical formulations is studied in detail. The core courses such as Pharmaceutics, pharmacology, Pharmaceutical chemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutical analysis provide insights into properties of API, its action on the body, its role in various diseases, adverse drug reactions, various dosage forms, their standardisation, isolation of active constituents from plants and their characterisation, etc.

With in-depth knowledge of various diseases and drugs for their treatment, a pharmacist has career options in fields such as Production, formulation development, Analytical method development, Quality Control, Quality Assurance, Medico-marketing, Herbal Drug Development of the pharmaceutical Industry. By upgrading the skills in IPR, patents, regulatory guidelines, one can pursue career in regulatory affairs department of industry. For those having interest in the commercial side of pharma business, options in sales and marketing remain open after acquiring a post graduation qualification in management. For jobs in Research and development (R & D), a qualification of Masters or doctorate in Pharmacy with specialisation in one of the core areas is highly desirable. Specialisation in molecular biology at post graduation, equips you with research in biotechnology based products such as human insulin for diabetes or monoclonal antibodies for treatment of cancer. There are many job opportunities for a pharmacist in Clinical Research sector for testing a new drug or its formulation in human being.

Vivekanand Education Society's college of pharmacy is one of the fast emerging institutions started in 2007 by the VES management having 50 years of experience in running 26 institutes including engineering, management, Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, Polytechnic, etc. This institute is affiliated to University of Mumbai, approved by AICTE and PCI u/s 12 Pharmacy Act. With highly experienced and well qualified faculty members and state-of-the-art infrastructure, the college boasts of university rankers in both the graduate batches, many accolades in extra-curricular

activities and publications as well as presentations at national/international conferences. With the policy of personalised attention and caring mentorship of every student focussing at his holistic growth, the institute is successful in attracting the attention of the bright and sincere crowd of students. The institute offers courses of B. Pharm., M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutics, Quality Assurance and proposes M. Pharm. in Pharm. Chem. from 2013-14. The institute is also all set to introduce 5 and ½ years integrated course of Masters of Management in Pharmacy (MPM) from 2013-14 for which approval by AICTE has already been granted. The post graduate degree of MPM aims at preparing a pharmacist with technical knowledge as well as managerial skills to be eligible to work at managerial positions in the technical and commercial side of the pharmaceutical industry.

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