



# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES MAJOR?

## Sample Careers

**This is not an all-inclusive list, but may help open your mind to the variety of careers available to Pharmaceutical Sciences graduates. Many entry-level jobs require prior experience, which you may gain through undergraduate research, internships, shadowing, and other employment during your undergraduate years. Some fields will require advanced degrees or certifications for professional advancement.**

\*Median salary data is based on salaries of all individuals in a given field and is not representative of an entry-level salary. Salary is commensurate with experience and education.

### Biotechnology Research Scientist

Biotechnology research scientists work in a laboratory conducting experiments in the field of biotechnology, which looks to incorporate the unique characteristics of nature to invent or propose a product that can (for example) further crop growth, preserve food with greater safety, and possibly create a better pharmaceutical drug.

**Learn More at:** [https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Research\\_Scientist%2C\\_Biotechnology/Salary](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Research_Scientist%2C_Biotechnology/Salary)

**Median Salary:** \$88,912/year\*

**Qualifications may include:** Research experience. Use of mass spectrometry (MS), next-generation sequencing (NGS), flow cytometry, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), gel electrophoresis, Western blot, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), recombinant DNA cloning, directed evolution, mutagenesis, and statistical analysis

### Biomedical Scientist

Biomedical scientists use scientific research to improve human health. They design studies to test and develop new treatment plans, analyze medical data to investigate pathogens and chronic diseases, as well as develop social programs that can improve outcomes in population health.

**Learn More at:** <https://www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/biomedical-science/how-to-become-a-biomedical-scientist#:~:text=Biomedical%20scientists%20use%20scientific%20research,improve%20outcomes%20in%20population%20health.>

**Median Salary:** \$62,931/year\*

**Qualifications may include:** Research experience. Attention to detail, dedication, and diligence.

### Chemist

Chemists and materials scientists study substances at the atomic and molecular levels and analyze the ways in which substances interact with one another. Chemists work in industry, academia, biotech companies, and more.

**Learn More at:** <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/chemists-and-materials-scientists.htm>

**Median Salary:** \$79,300/year\*

**Qualifications may include:** Research experience. Must have analytical skills, communication skills, math skills, organizational skills, problem-solving skills, and perseverance.

<b>Clinical Laboratory Technician</b>	
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians collect samples and perform tests to analyze body fluids, tissue, and other substances.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/clinical-laboratory-technician">https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/clinical-laboratory-technician</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$54,180/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Qualified candidates have the ability use technology, dexterity, physical stamina, and are detail oriented
<b>Clinical Supply Specialist</b>	
Clinical supply specialists are responsible for developing drug supply planning strategies and overall management of supplies for clinical studies.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/clinical-supply-specialist-salary-SRCH_KO0,26.htm">https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/clinical-supply-specialist-salary-SRCH_KO0,26.htm</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$64,923/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge of the pharmaceutical/biotech/clinical supply logistics environment. Proactive approach to work, ability to identify potential issues in advance. Experience with project management and clinical customer relations.
<b>Clinical Trials Research Coordinator</b>	
Clinical Trials Research Coordinators oversee, coordinate, and manage the day-to-day clinical activities for research trials. This may include regulatory and contract issues, recruitment, informed consent, study procedures, data collection and documentation, and interactions with research sponsors.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.zippia.com/clinical-trial-coordinator-jobs/skills/">https://www.zippia.com/clinical-trial-coordinator-jobs/skills/</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$45,000/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Excellent communication skills and organizations skills. Knowledge of regulatory document collection and IRB helpful.
<b>Consumer Safety Officer in Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)</b>	
Serves as a subject matter specialist in the evaluation of drug manufacturing and compounding facilities.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-center-drug-evaluation-and-research/consumer-safety-officer-jobs-cder">https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-center-drug-evaluation-and-research/consumer-safety-officer-jobs-cder</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$69,147/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge in current good manufacturing practices (cGMP)
<b>Food Scientist for Vitamin Supplement Companies</b>	
Food scientists and technologists use chemistry, biology, and other sciences to study the basic elements of food. They analyze the nutritional content of food, discover new food sources, and research ways to make processed foods safe and healthy	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/agricultural-and-food-scientists.htm#:~:text=Food%20scientists%20and%20technologists%20use,processed%20foods%20safe%20and%20healthy.">https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/agricultural-and-food-scientists.htm#:~:text=Food%20scientists%20and%20technologists%20use,processed%20foods%20safe%20and%20healthy.</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$68,830/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Research experience. Knowledge in dosage forms like capsules, supplements, health and nutrition, microbiology, quality assurance, and ingredient functionality
<b>Forensic Scientist</b>	
Forensic science technicians aid criminal investigations by collecting and analyzing evidence.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/forensic-science-technicians.htm">https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/forensic-science-technicians.htm</a>

<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$60,590/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Use of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology for DNA, gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS), liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS), solid phase extraction (SPE), infrared spectroscopy, thin layer chromatography (TLC), enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), Work in different divisions such as biology, controlled substances, latent print, toxicology, and firearms

### Formulation Scientist

A formulation scientist designs, develops, tests, and evaluates products. Their job duties involve blending and mixing chemical components to create effective products, often for the pharmaceutical or cosmetics industries.

<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Career/Formulation-Scientist/What-Is-How-to-Become">https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Career/Formulation-Scientist/What-Is-How-to-Become</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$52,715/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Research experience. Knowledge in good manufacturing practices (GMP), quality control, SDS-PAGE, ion-exchange chromatography (IEX), size exclusion chromatography (SEC), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), drug excipients, standard operating procedures (SOP), dissolution, and Karl Fischer titration

### Health Education Specialist

Health education specialists develop programs to teach people about conditions affecting well-being. Community health workers promote wellness by helping people adopt healthy behaviors.

<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm">https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$56,500/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Understanding of specific community, culture, medical condition, or disability with which they work. The ability to speak a second language may be helpful.

### Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technician

A pharmaceutical manufacturer uses raw materials and chemical compounds to create pharmaceutical products like medications. Pharmaceutical manufacturers can measure materials to ensure they use the appropriate amount, blend materials to create powders for medications and synthesize components of new pharmaceuticals with specialized tools and procedures. Because they often work with potentially hazardous materials, a large part of a pharmaceutical manufacturer's job is to make sure that all regulations are met and followed to ensure the safety of everyone in the workplace.

<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://hiring.monster.com/resources/job-descriptions/production/pharmaceutical-manufacturing-technician/">https://hiring.monster.com/resources/job-descriptions/production/pharmaceutical-manufacturing-technician/</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$55,107/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Laboratory skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork skills

### Pharmaceutical Sales Representative

A pharmaceutical sales representative is someone who is employed by pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors to inform and educate physicians about their products in the rapidly advancing pharmaceutical industry. These representatives rely on their interpersonal skills and knowledge of the products to sell to providers and influence them to prescribe the drugs to their patients.

<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/pharmaceutical-sales-representative/">https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/pharmaceutical-sales-representative/</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$65,420/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Understand sales products, competing drug products, pharmacology, chemistry, adverse drug reactions, contraindications

<b>Pharmacy Patient Advocate</b>	
Patient advocacy is an area of specialization in health care concerned with advocacy for patients, survivors, and caregivers. Typical advocacy activities are the following: patient rights, matters of privacy, confidentiality or informed consent, patient representation, awareness building, support and education of patients, survivors and their careers.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_advocacy">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_advocacy</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$60,772/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge of drugs, prescriptions, medical terminology, insurance, financial assistance, and prior authorizations
<b>Quality Assurance in Pharmaceuticals</b>	
Quality assurance specialists are responsible for monitoring, inspecting, and proposing measures to correct or improve a company's final products and processes in order to meet established quality standards.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/quality-assurance-associate-salary">https://www.salary.com/research/salary/posting/quality-assurance-associate-salary</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$64,392/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge in good manufacturing practices (GMP), dietary supplements, and pharmaceuticals
<b>Regulatory Information Specialist in Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)</b>	
Participate in the overall planning, development and analysis of regulatory information management requirements and their implementation in CDER Informatics Platform.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-center-drug-evaluation-and-research/regulatory-information-specialist-jobs-cder">https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-center-drug-evaluation-and-research/regulatory-information-specialist-jobs-cder</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$70,137/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge in technical writing, medical devices, regulatory compliance, and quality assurance
<b>Science Writer</b>	
A science writer is a professional who researches, writes, and edits scientific articles and news features, for such publications as technical and scientific journals, websites, and other media outlets. These individuals understand specific scientific topics and seek to put these topics in a highly readable form for the general public	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.zippia.com/science-writer-jobs/">https://www.zippia.com/science-writer-jobs/</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$56,569/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge in scientific writing, chemistry, communication, biomedicine, and research
<b>Toxicologist</b>	
A toxicologist works with chemicals and other substances in order to determine whether they are harmful to humans or other living organisms.	
<b>Learn More at:</b>	<a href="https://www.zippia.com/toxicologist-jobs/">https://www.zippia.com/toxicologist-jobs/</a>
<b>Median Salary:</b>	\$74,000/year*
<b>Qualifications may include:</b>	Knowledge and understanding of conducting risk assessment of products, familiarity with regulations, teamwork skills, communication skills.

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