INTERNATIONAL EDUCATED PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST CAREER INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Pharmaceutical chemists have a bachelor's degree in chemistry or related field, and ideally have a graduate degree as well, with a specialization in pharmaceutical chemistry. Pharmaceutical chemists design, develop, analyze and evaluate new and better drugs for the healthcare industry. There are two main types of pharmaceutical chemists: synthetic and analytical.

Synthetic pharmaceutical chemists, also known as medicinal chemists, devote their work to the creation of new drugs. They work to create products that provide the greatest possible benefits with the fewest negative side effects, while simultaneously keeping the production process cost effective.

Analytical pharmaceutical chemists, develop and apply stringent methods of chemical analysis to the product before it goes on the market, ensuring that the drug is pure and that the molecular elements of its structure are easy to determine for toxicological and pharmacological purposes

Pharmaceutical drug development is a major part of the evolving field of medical technology, and chemists are greatly sought by the pharmaceutical industry for their skills in analyzing and manipulating the properties of medicine. Analysts will be responsible for supporting the research department through coordinating research activities directed toward the development of new methods, and conducting validations that meet department revenue, profit growth and expense objectives. The position is instrumental in the development of methods and R&D processes/procedures for GMP compliance as well as maintaining operational efficiencies.

Licensing is available but voluntary in BC.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Some schools offer undergraduate programs devoted specifically to pharmaceutical chemistry, but that specialization is usually reserved for higher levels of education. Students planning to specialize in the pharmaceutical field should place emphasis on analytical chemistry and biology. Pharmaceutical chemists possess technical skills in chemistry, and in areas such as management, communication and teamwork

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Research positions for pharmaceutical chemists typically require a master's or doctoral degree. Some of the tasks a pharmaceutical chemist may perform include creating or synthesizing new drugs and conducting chemical analyses of medicinal products.

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST CHARACTERISTICS

- An interest in solving problems
- An interest in developing products and processes
- An interest in business and a flare for sales
- The ability to communicate effectively with other professionals such as chemical engineers, product managers and others
- The ability to work on a team
- Emotional stability
- Enjoy working in a lab
- Patience, persistence and the ability to pay attention to detail

EMPLOYMENT AREAS

Pharmaceutical chemists are hired by organizations involved in researching, developing and marketing pharmaceutical products, and organizations responsible for regulating those products.

- **Government Agencies:** May hire pharmaceutical chemists in administrative capacities in areas related to the regulation of pharmaceutical products, such as reviewing new drug applications submitted by pharmaceutical companies.

- **Pharmaceutical Companies:** Hire pharmaceutical chemists to conduct and supervise research. Pharmaceutical chemists may also work in a management capacity within a pharmaceutical company.

- **Biotechnology Companies:** Hire pharmaceutical chemists to conduct and supervise research. Pharmaceutical chemists may also work in a management capacity within a biotechnology company.

- **Private Research Laboratories:** Hire pharmaceutical chemists to conduct and supervise research. Pharmaceutical chemists may also work in a management capacity within a private research laboratory.

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- **Colleges and Universities:** Hire pharmaceutical chemists to perform research, as well as instruct classes

RESOURCES

Association of the Chemical Profession of BC (ACPBC) – www.pchembc.ca

Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) – www.cheminst.ca

Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC) – www.canadianchemistry.ca/index.php

JOB BOARDS

Indeed.ca - https://ca.indeed.com/jobs?q=Pharmaceutical+Chemist&l=Vancouver%2C+BC

Workopolis - https://www.workopolis.com/jobsearch/find-jobs?ak=pharmaceutical+chemist&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&job=c03LHXKeeIQtb5kwcg492O8ES1nnwA1KndeklpGDdtU84PWwUor2Mg

Wow Jobs - https://www.wowjobs.ca/BrowseResults.aspx?q=pharmaceutical+chemist&l=Vancouver%2C+BC&job=ialmhX6WGmIwZcL_88R-Ovpeh69hyiMye3jXo75Q4DakhH9lIDKwxQ

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