Pharmacy is Right for Me is an educational campaign that aims to inspire and foster the next generation of pharmacy leaders in the United States. Pharmacy is Right for Me provides students, parents, and educators with interactive tools, resources, and first-person testimonials that give insight into the exciting and diverse career opportunities that exist within the field of pharmacy.

Pharmacy is Right for Me is a collaborative effort by OptumRx, a leading pharmacy benefits management organization and an Optum company; American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the largest association of pharmacists in the country; and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), a national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States. Content for www.pharmacyforme.org is overseen by an Advisory Board of experts from the fields of pharmacy and education.

Join the Conversation!
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We would love to hear from you! Please send any questions, comments or suggestions to info@pharmacyforme.org

If you are interested in becoming a partner of Pharmacy is Right for Me, please email us at partners@pharmacyforme.org
An Exciting Career Choice

Whether you’re interested in contributing to your community, identifying new health care solutions through research and experiments, working in education, or providing care for people in hospitals or their homes, a career in pharmacy can be rewarding in a number of ways:

• A Trusted Profession
• Room to Grow
• Excellent Earning Potential and Job Security

Through pharmacy, you can:
✓ Help people live healthy lives
✓ Give back to your community
✓ Work closely with people every day
✓ Work in a wide range of settings and have flexible hours
✓ Look forward to a competitive salary and other benefits when you graduate

Do you want to serve the community and improve people’s health?
✓ Do you have strong communications skills?
✓ Do you like science and math?
✓ Are you detail-oriented and organized?
✓ Do you enjoy problem-solving?

If the answer to one or more of these questions is “yes,” then pharmacy may be right for you!

Find a mentor
✓ Connect with a person who is familiar with pharmacy that can give you advice and answer your questions. This could be a science teacher, guidance counselor, family member, local pharmacist, etc.

Meet with your guidance counselor
✓ Make sure you are taking the right math and science classes, such as chemistry, biology, physics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus. English, history, foreign languages, business and computer classes also are a plus!

Gain experience
✓ Experience the daily routine of a pharmacist by asking to spend a day with a pharmacist in your area or volunteering at a community health center or hospital. Speak to student pharmacists and ask them what high school classes they felt were most important for helping them prepare for a pharmacy education.

Work in a pharmacy
✓ Many pharmacies employ young workers in part-time or summer jobs such as cashiers, clerks or assistants.
✓ A job that gives you exposure to the daily life of a pharmacist can help you decide whether this career is for you. But remember, pharmacy is a diverse field, so if one area of pharmacy doesn’t interest you, there are many more areas to choose from.

Use online resources
✓ Explore pharmacy websites, such as the APhA Career Pathway Evaluation Program, to learn about your different options and career paths.

Get a pre-pharmacy education
✓ Complete two to four years of pre-pharmacy undergraduate classes. You should take at least two years of science courses, including biology, chemistry, physics and organic chemistry. For some schools, you may have to take more science and math courses. Check with the pharmacy schools you might be interested in to make sure you are taking the courses they require.

Take the PCAT
✓ Most pharmaceutical schools require that you take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). This test includes the following sections: verbal, biology, reading comprehension, quantitative ability (which is a measure of math skills), chemistry and an essay.

Earn a PharmD degree
✓ To earn a PharmD degree, you must complete a professional pharmacy program (typically four years) that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. The professional curriculum will include classroom work as well as educational experiences in various pharmacy practice settings.

Complete a residency program and/or fellowship
✓ Some areas of pharmacy practice may require that you complete a one- to two-year residency program and/or fellowship after graduating. Both are customized to help you prepare for the area of pharmacy you’d like to work in. These programs may require a final research project.

Earn a pharmacist license
✓ To earn a pharmacist license, you must have a PharmD degree, spend a specified number of hours in a practice setting, and pass the appropriate exams. All states require the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX), which tests pharmacy skills and knowledge. You must also take a test on pharmacy law (44 states require the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam [MPJE] and the others offer individualized pharmacy law exams).

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