

Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction)

Level 3



Aim:

This programme aims to provide the pharmacy sector with graduates with underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Graduates will be able to work within a pharmacy in a non-dispensing role with the supervision of a pharmacist.

Credits: 40 credits

Duration: 15 teaching weeks plus 3 study break weeks. Face to face learning activities / Clinical Placement are normally scheduled over 3 days per week.

Delivery: You can expect the following workload for the theory modules:

- 20 hours per week engaging in face-to-face learning activities.
- 10 hours per week completing independent study tasks.

For 6 of the last 7 weeks of the programme students will be required to complete 135 hours of practicum in a commercial pharmacy setting (22.5 hours per week). The 7th week is for feedback activities relating to the practicum.

Qualification gained: This programme leads to the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3)

The programme aims to provide the pharmacy sector with a graduate who has underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Graduates will be able to work within a pharmacy in a non-dispensing role with the supervision of a pharmacist or pathway into further study at level 4 or 5 in a pharmacy programme.

Career Pathways:

Pharmacy Assistants can progress to be a Pharmacy Technician working in the dispensary or may become retail or business managers looking after the retail side of the pharmacy.

What will I learn?

We value holistic education and guidance. This programme includes classroom-based learning, self-directed learning, and clinical placement.

- Safe practice and Communication / Professional and ethical basic practices for a Pharmacy Assistant
- Pharmacy-related products and services · Pharmacy Assistant (Clinical)



Entry requirements:

All students –

Must be able to understand requirements, follow instructions, and communicate clearly and effectively with others, and are expected to have the English skills to be able to communicate in the programme. Supplementary English tuition may be required or recommended if the student has difficulties with English after starting the programme.

Domestic students –

- At least 16 years of age at programme start date
- 8 credits at NCEA Level 1 in English (4 in reading, 4 in writing) or equivalent.
- Minimum of 3 years secondary education.
- There are no minimum academic requirements for applicants 20 years of age and over.

International students –

- At least 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Year 12 or 13 qualification or equivalent (high school) including at least one science subject.
- IELTS 5.0 with individual no bands less than 5.0 or equivalent as per the English Language Proficiency Requirements for International students determined by NZQA.

These are specified in the table found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/nzqf-related-rules/the-table/>.

What could I earn?

As a Pharmacy Assistant you are a retail sales assistant with underpinning knowledge and skills in pharmacy retail. Pay varies depending on experience and the company you work for.

- Entry-level sales assistants usually start on minimum wage.
- Mid-level sales assistants usually earn up to \$45,000 a year.
- Senior sales assistants can earn between \$45,000 and \$48,000.

Source: Retail NZ 2020 Wages Guide, 2020. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/retail-and-personal-services/retail/retail-sales-assistant/>

Once you train to become a Pharmacy Technician you can expect to earn the following:

- Pharmacy technician trainees usually earn between minimum wage and \$45,000 a year.
- Qualified pharmacy technicians can earn between \$45,000 and \$52,000.
- Hospital pharmacy technicians who take on additional responsibilities can earn up to \$56,000.

Sources: Auckland District Health Boards/PSA, 'Allied, Public Health and Technical Multi-employer Collective Agreement, to October 2017; Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, 2017. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/health-and-community/health/pharmacy-technician/>

Ask us for more information on our Certificate in Pharmacy Technician Level 5 programme.

