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Pharmacist Research Essay

Introduction

In my younger years, I dreamed of being an astronaut, but very few people would be able to travel to space at this time. When I entered middle school, I was amazed at how doctors could help with injuries big and small, no matter the problem. I also knew that doctors are one of the few people who get paid plenty. I had a problem with being a doctor. I would say I have Hemophobia which is fear or dislike of seeing blood either my own, somebody else's, or an animal's. I later learned that other medical careers paid high salaries (not as high as doctors) and some do not include working with blood. One I liked was a pharmacist, even though they do take blood from patients on occasion most of the time they are filling prescriptions given by doctors. Also, pharmacists work with medicine. I have always enjoyed science and math, so I like chemical formulas used to make medications. I would like to learn more about how medicine is made though. I would recommend becoming a Pharmacist because they know a lot about Health, but I would also say that students have the choice to become whatever they want.

Career Duties

Some of a Pharmacist's duties include filling prescriptions, reactions to medications, instructing patients how to use medications, managing pharmacy interns, educating patients, etc according to both the (*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*) and (*Stobierski*). As most people would know Pharmacist most of the time are in a pharmacy to fill out prescriptions, that is

because Pharmacist works with medicine, but they have other jobs than that like managing the pharmacy luckily the pharmacy is run by multiple Pharmacist so the stress is not as large as doctors, firefighters and policemen. Pharmacists also make sure that the medication that a patient is taking does not have any side effects on their body or other medications. Some Pharmacists also educate coworkers and patients to understand topics that others may not know about.

Work Environment

According to the (*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*), about 40% of Pharmacists work in Pharmacies and about 27% work in Hospitals of any kind. Pharmacists may collaborate on a patient with physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners and that is mostly due to the prescriptions of the collaborators. Their work could be dangerous due to the medications that they hand out, but Pharmacists stay safe due to their protective gear such as face masks, gloves, coats, and sometimes something to protect their hair. Most of the Pharmacist Lifestyle is in the job since most of the time Pharmacists work for 24 hours, on the weekends, and may not have rest during holidays. Most of this is because most of the Pharmacists work in Pharmacies that are open 24/7 and that might be because most of the places pharmacists work are where patients may require medication prepared(*Stobierski*).

Important Qualities

To become a Pharmacist students usually need to know that some primary qualities that a Pharmacist have would be Analytical Skills, Communication Skills, Computer Skills, Detail Oriented, and Managerial Skills stated by the (*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*), and according to (*What are traits...*) some other qualities may include multi-tasking, duty prioritization, and communication. The listed qualities do make sense because Pharmacists usually need to analyze before giving out medication. Pharmacists need to have enough communication capability to be

able to understand what a consumer needs. They also need to have some computer understanding since humans are always moving forward meaning most tasks at hand may come to be computer related tasks. They also make sure to be precise on prescriptions given to them. Finally Pharmacists can manage inventory and supervise a staff member.

Education/Experience Requirements

Very often, a Doctor of Pharmacy degree is required for pharmacists. A minimum of two years of necessary academic courses in areas like anatomy and physiology, physics, and statistics are normally required for acceptance to PharmD. Programs stated by the (*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*). A residency or fellowship program would be suggested for more training and research and usually last around one to two years. According to (*Pharmacists*) students are required to take the Pharmacy College Admission Test and submit their test scores before applying to a Pharmacy School.

Salaries

According to the (*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*), the lowest pharmacist is paid \$76,840 and could go up to \$164,590. The lowest would be if a pharmacist is still not fully experienced and will get paid a reliable amount. Only the top 10% of mostly experienced pharmacists are paid a big amount of money. “Factor to consider is the average salary for these top ten cities varies very little at 13% between Green River, WY and Kensington, NY, reinforcing the limited potential for much wage advancement.”(*Entry Level Pharmacist Salary*) tells the readers that one of the factors is the amount of profit workers get in a city may influence the amount of cash a pharmacist may get paid.

Job Outlook

According to (Emamifar) “More pharmacists are graduating than ever because there has been tremendous growth in the number of pharmacy schools. As of January 2021, there are 140 schools in the U.S. that are recognized by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).” Emamifar is stating that the United States needed a large number of pharmacists at a time now the United States has a surplus of Pharmacist graduates. “From 2021 to 2031, the employment of pharmacists is expected to expand by only 2%”(*US Bureau of Labor and Statistics*), which is slower than the average for all occupations. Over the next ten years, there are expected to be, on average, 13,600 opportunities for pharmacists, notwithstanding the modest expansion in employment. The majority of those positions are anticipated to be caused by the need to replace workers who change careers or leave the workforce due to retirement.

Educational Institution Options

One Institute that may be useful for students who want to become pharmacists would be (*California Health Sciences University*). One of the requirements would be that a student needs a 2.70 or higher for a minimum and average GPA and does not require the PCAT. Usually there are around 536 applications submitted, only around 17% are submitted so around 91 applications are accepted. The courses needed are most of the Science Health courses, Calculus and Communication Classes. Another Institute would be (*University of the Pacific*). It follows with the similar courses as the (*California Health Sciences University*) but with less courses needed and with more different courses. There are about 794 applications that are submitted, around 27% of the applications are accepted so around 214 students are accepted. The requirements are the same as the other institute and both of them are private institutions.

Conclusion

I believe that becoming a pharmacist may not be as thrilling for some people, but to me, being a pharmacist is one of the most interesting careers that there is. Pharmacists do not have to do as much as surgeons or other doctors, but as they are part of the medical field they still have tasks to complete including completing prescriptions, knowledge of health, medication capability, medical terminology, etc. Some pharmacists make medicine which is amazing how our science has evolved from the past. And yes, I would like to become a pharmacist in the future because they have high paychecks and do not have as much on their plate as doctors do, but still need medical training and need to maintain a neat environment too.

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