

PHARMACY EDUCATION

ESSENTIAL PHARMACY COMPETENCIES

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association considers that the entry level for pharmacists in the Commonwealth should be the baccalaureate (bachelor's) degree. A list of the 'essential pharmacy competencies' for all first degree pharmacy students has been established by the faculty of the Duquesne University school of pharmacy and is given below.

1. Evaluates the chemical, physical, and bioequivalency of multisource drugs.
2. Interprets and evaluates accuracy and completeness of prescription order.
3. Selects appropriate ingredients, products, brand and dosage form for drugs to be dispensed.
4. Prepares prescription accurately by measuring, counting or transferring the medication.
5. Provides appropriate label information for prescriptions to be dispensed.
6. Evaluates OTC drug products.
7. Consults with patients on the selection, use and effects of OTC drugs.
8. Evaluates the relative therapeutic use of medical-surgical devices and supplies.
9. Counsels patients in the selection, storage, and use of medical-surgical devices and supplies.
10. Consults with patients regarding the uses and effects of legend drugs as related to their specific needs.
11. Identifies and locates appropriate drug information.
12. Evaluates and interprets pharmaceutical and medical literature.
13. Evaluates drug therapy.
14. Monitors drugs therapy.
15. Provides limited emergency first aid treatment and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
16. Provides patient with access to poison control and treatment information.
17. Refers patients to other health care professionals and agencies.
18. Communicates effectively and participates cooperatively with other health team professionals.
19. Complies with all pharmacy practice laws, drug laws, pharmacy practice regulations, and drug regulations.
20. Demonstrates a knowledge of professional practice standards and codes of ethics.
21. Demonstrates appropriate professional practice standards and codes of ethics.
21. Demonstrates appropriate professional responsibility and judgement in interpretation of laws and regulations.
22. Applies principles of good management practice to pharmacy personnel.
23. Applies principles of good management practice to pharmacy inventory control.
24. Applies principles of good management practice to pharmacy fiscal matters.

25. Applies principles of good management practice to pharmacy operations.
26. Performs drug control, storage and drug security functions in drug distribution.
27. Demonstrates basic knowledge of the nature and treatment of disease.
28. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical, chemical and bio-pharmaceutical characteristics of drugs that influence the routes and ultimate effectiveness of drug administration.
29. Demonstrates knowledge of the principles of nutrition and their relationship to drug use.
30. Explains characteristics and procedures of pharmacy practice according to types, roles and settings.
31. Prepares medication accurately by compounding the prescription.
32. Performs bulk compounding of ingredients according to legal and professional standards.
33. Demonstrates knowledge of psychosocial correlates and consequences of illness.
34. Demonstrates a knowledge of the relationship of pharmacy to the national health system.
35. Demonstrates a knowledge of public health problems, agencies, preventive strategies, and epidemiological research.
36. Demonstrates an understanding of the etiology, symptoms, mode of transmission, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases.

UNIVERSITY SPECTRUM

The Final B.Pharm. examinations were held last July. The External Examiner was Prof. D.W. Mathieson, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Head of the Pharmacy School and Dean of the Faculty of Life Science at Bradford University. Two students, Miss Doris Farrugia and Mr Frankie Zammit gained First Class Honours, nine students a Second Class Upper, eight students a Second Class Lower, four students a Third Class and one student a Pass Degree. The 16 Pharmacy Student Workers sponsored by Government and who have completed their studies last July have all been appointed by the Department of Health as Pharmacists. For the first time, the Government Pharmaceutical Service include 20 qualified pharmacists.

On 1 September the second group of First Year Students embarked on their study phase. These students will complete their studies by the end of January and will sit along with the first group for their Part I examinations in February.

The Department of Pharmacy is giving its assistance in the organisation of the Annual General Conference of the Institute of Pharmacy Management which is being held in Malta during the last week of October. The Head of the Department, Mr A. Scicluna-Spiteri is establishing a local branch of the Institute and any pharmacists who would like to join are kindly invited to get in contact with him.