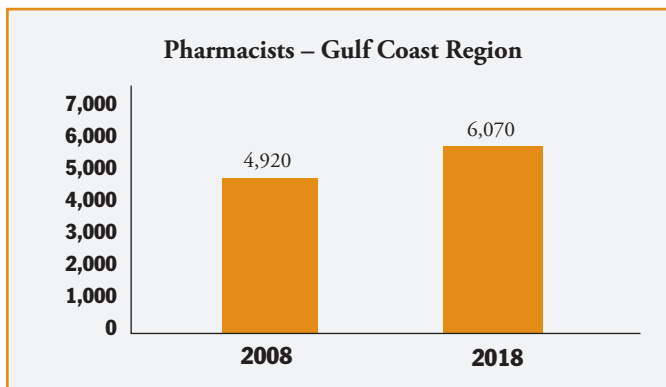


# FOCUS ON PHARMACISTS

Houston Gulf Coast Region\*

## DO YOU ENJOY MATH AND SCIENCE BUT DON'T WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

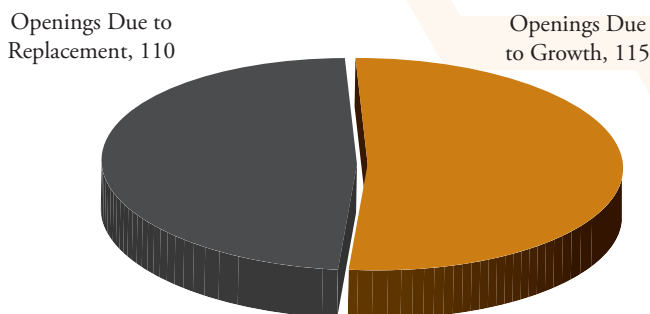
The role of the pharmacist is increasingly becoming an integrated part of the healthcare system involved in patient care. Counting pills and filling prescriptions is only a small part of a pharmacist's job. Customers and health care providers also rely on pharmacists to on the proper selection and dosage of medications, interactions, and side effects of medications. The salary alone is enough to capture the interest of people choosing a career but is it the right choice for you? The road to becoming a pharmacist is a six year process requiring excellent aptitude for math, science, and chemistry. The outlook for careers as a pharmacist should continue to be very good due to strong growth in the usage of prescription drugs coupled with an aging population.



**The number of pharmacists in the region will increase to more than 6,000 by the year 2018!**

\*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

## Annual Job Openings – Gulf Coast Region

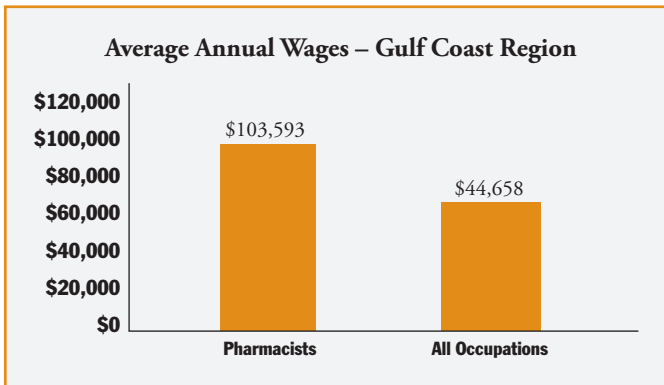


**Demand for pharmacists due to career advancement and retirement is nearly as critical as demand due to growth.**

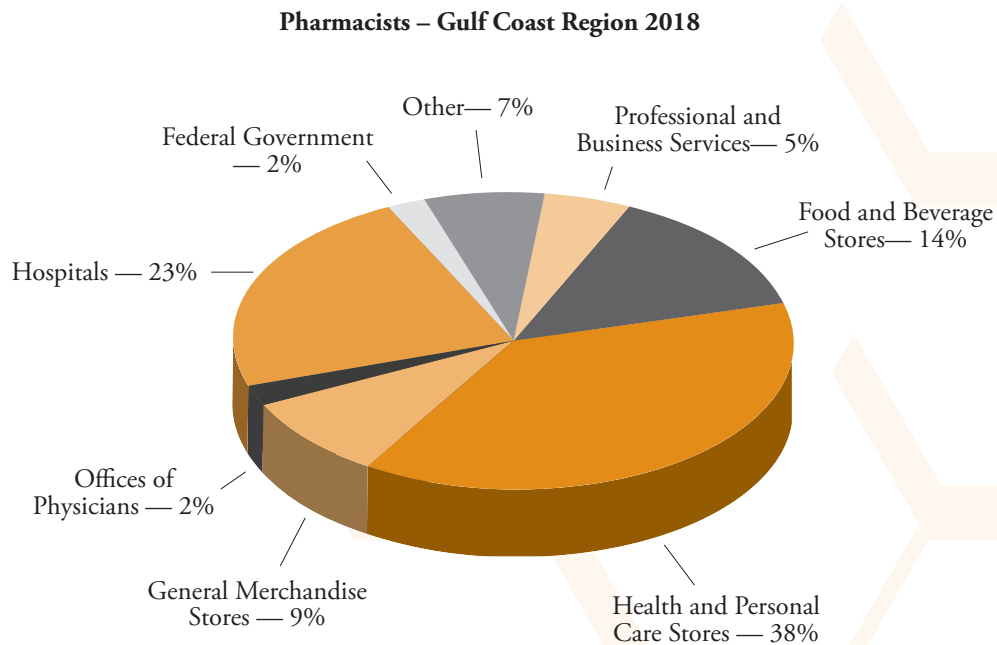
Brought to you by the Education Committee of The Gulf Coast Workforce Board. For more information visit us on the Web at [www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com). Latest data available as of June 2011.

# FOCUS ON PHARMACISTS

**PHARMACISTS EARN EXCELLENT WAGES, AVERAGING MORE THAN \$100,000 PER YEAR!**



**MORE THAN HALF OF ALL PHARMACISTS WORK AT RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS. WHERE DO THE REST WORK?**



# FOCUS ON PHARMACISTS

3 OF 4

## PATHWAY TO BECOMING A PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are regulated and licensed by the state in a way similar to that of registered nurses and doctors. So, how does a person become a licensed pharmacist in Texas?

- Graduate from a college of pharmacy.
- Complete an internship of 1,500 hours
- Pass a licensure examination given by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, which includes subjects in chemistry, mathematics, pharmacy, pharmacology, practice of pharmacy, and pharmacy law

In addition, a pharmacist must complete 30 hours of pharmacy continuing education courses every two years.

Additional state licensing information can be found at the Texas State Board of Pharmacy website: <http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/>

## START EARLY AND BE PREPARED!

Pharmacy programs are very competitive and many students are turned away each year. Students should strive for the highest GPA possible to provide them with the edge needed for acceptance into a pharmacy program.

Pharmacy programs require strong skills in science, chemistry, and math. Knowledge of a foreign language enhances your chances of getting accepted into pharmacy school.

## GULF COAST REGION PHARMACY PROGRAMS

### Universities

- Texas Southern University
- University of Houston

## WHERE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- All Retail Pharmacies
- All acute care hospitals
- Pharmaceutical developers and/or distributors such as Cardinal Pharmaceuticals or McKesson Corporation

# FOCUS ON PHARMACISTS

## PREPARING FOR A PHARMACIST CAREER\*

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Principles of Health Science
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Physical Education	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Medical Terminology
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry		
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Health Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Languages other than English III, Problems and Solutions or Entrepreneurship
	Algebra II	Professional Communications	
	Physics		
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Practicum in Health Science or Pathophysiology, Scientific Research and Design, World Health Research, Languages other than English
	AP Statistics	Fine Arts	
	Advanced Biotechnology		

\*Source: AchieveTexas.org

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Texas Relay Numbers:

1-800-735-2989(TDD) • 1-800-735-2988(VOICE) • 711

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