WHAT DOES A PHARMACIST DO?
Pharmacists typically do the following:

- Fill prescriptions, verifying instructions from physicians on the proper amounts of medication to give to patients
- Check whether the prescription will interact negatively with other drugs that a patient is taking or conditions the patient has; Instruct patients on how and when to take a prescribed medicine
- Advise patients on potential side effects they may experience from taking the medicine
- Advise patients about general health topics, such as diet, exercise, and managing stress, and on other issues, such as what equipment or supplies would be best for a health problem
- Complete insurance forms and work with insurance companies to be sure that patients get the medicines they need
- Oversee the work of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists in training (interns)

From the online Occupational Handbook, 2012

WHAT DEGREE DO I NEED TO BE A PHARMACIST?
You must earn a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree from an accredited pharmacy institution and pass a state licensure exam. You can enter a Pharm.D. program upon completion of prerequisites before earning an undergraduate degree, though many programs prefer applicants to have a B.A. or B.S. and some require it.

WHAT CLASSES DO I NEED TO TAKE TO GET INTO PHARMACY SCHOOL?
Some typical prerequisite courses include:

- General Chemistry and Biology
- Physics
- Organic Chemistry
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Calculus
- Statistics
- English Composition
- Public Speaking
- Ethics or Philosophy
- Humanities Courses
- Behavioral & Social Science Courses
- Economics

*The above list is not exhaustive, and prerequisites for admission vary by school. For specific college requirements, visit the annual publication, Pharmacy School Admission Requirements (PSAR).

WHAT TEST DO I NEED TO TAKE FOR ADMISSION?
Most, but not all, Pharm.D. programs require the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). Find out which schools require the PCAT here. The PCAT is a four hour exam comprised of six content areas: verbal ability, biology, reading comprehension, quantitative ability, chemistry and a written essay. To learn more and to register for the exam, please visit: http://www.pcatweb.info/

WHAT DOES A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT LOOK LIKE?
The GPA of matriculants to Pharm.D. programs is typically between a 3.3 and a 3.6, though some schools are lower and others are higher. See here to look at all program’s mean GPAs. Schools vary widely in the minimum PCAT score they will consider, so consult individual program information.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Approximately two-thirds of all pharmacy degree programs in the U.S. participate in the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) for admission. Designed for first-year professional pharmacy degree applicants, PharmCAS offers a simple, efficient process to apply to multiple colleges and schools of pharmacy using a single Web-based application. To learn more and to access the application, please visit: http://www.pharmcas.org/.

WHEN DO I APPLY?
PharmCAS applications should be submitted at least two weeks before the school deadline. School deadlines vary from November 1st through March 1st in most cases.

WHAT SITES DO I NEED TO CHECK OUT?
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy: www.aacp.org