



Clinical Specialty

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Secondary, Chapter 3018-61279

Heritage High School

Texas

Pharmacist

INDICAID COVID-19 Rapid Test



## Career Summary

For thousands of years, people across the globe have been using plants and various natural substances as medicine to treat diseases and disorders. However, following the industrial revolution, the growth in science allowed for significant development in medical labs that served the purpose of producing medical drugs. Thus, this notable insurgence or period of growth in history paved the path for the practice of pharmacy to become its own separate professional field in the mid-nineteenth century, and, more specifically, allowed individuals to pursue a healthcare career referred to as a Pharmacist. Since then, Pharmacists have been referred to as highly-skilled and trusted medication experts who specialize in the preparation, properties, effects, interactions and use of medicines.

Pharmacists perform a variety of tasks associated with medications on a daily basis. Each task practiced by a pharmacist is unique to the respective case they're dealing with as each patient has his or her specific instructions in terms of prescriptions or immunizations. The following is a general list of duties that pertain to all pharmacists:

- Prescriptions: fill and dispense prescriptions and verify instructions from prescribing physician regarding the proper medication intake; however, in the state of an unclear prescription from a physician, pharmacist must clarify and communicate with the prescribing individual
- Immunizations: Give flu shots and, in most states, other vaccinations (COVID-19)
- Ensure Patient's Safety: check whether prescriptions will interact negatively with other drugs that a patient is taking or any medical conditions the patient has; Advise patients about general health topics, such as diet, exercise, and

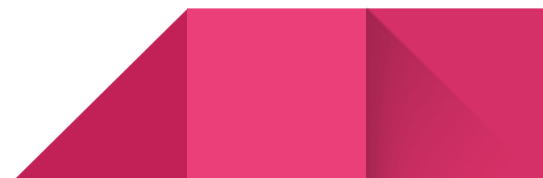
managing stress, and on other issues, such as what equipment or supplies would be best to treat a health problem

- Manage Staff & Administrative Tasks: Oversee the work of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists in training (interns); keep patient files up to date, making sure needed products are stocked and required reports get generated and filed
- Educate Health Provider Colleagues: inform doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers about new medications and drug therapy protocols

Pharmacists have the opportunity to become board certified in a specialty area of pharmacy (e.g. Oncology Pharmacy, Pediatric Pharmacy, Nuclear Pharmacy, etc.), therefore, the scope of job duties for Pharmacists is not limited to the list above.

Additionally, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has added Covid Testing to the list of Pharmacist duties.

There are numerous employment characteristics that make a prudent and exceptional pharmacist. The three most important and necessary attributes of a successful pharmacist are communication skills, detail orientation, and leadership. As a pharmacist, there is constant back-and-forth communication between prescribers and patients, thus, communication skills are an asset to pharmacists. In addition, the primary duty of a pharmacist is to dispense and fill prescriptions. This duty requires one to be thoroughly detail-oriented as it must be done carefully without mistakes to avoid confusion. Furthermore, a pharmacist must be a leader. To elaborate, as a pharmacist overlooks the entirety of the pharmacy, he or she must be able to take initiative, keep colleagues on task and have a sense of authority.



### **Education, Training, Career-Related Data, etc.**

To become a pharmacist, one must complete all the necessary education requirements that typically take about six to seven years. First, an individual must earn a bachelor's degree in a field associated with science and a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree – credentialing requirement. There are two options to fulfill these requirements: (1) Attend a primary school with a dual degree program in which one can earn their bachelor's degree alongside their PharmD over a period of six to seven years. A high school diploma is needed to enter one of these programs. (2) Attend a PharmD program (accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education ACPE) for doctor-level training after having earned a bachelor's degree in subjects such as biology or chemistry. Before attending pharmacy school, one must take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) as it is a requirement for most pharmacy schools. Regardless of the path taken, the aspiring pharmacist will complete classes in subjects such as biochemistry, pharmacology, healthcare management, pharmacological measurements, chemotherapy, biostatistics and pathology during the course of their PharmD program. Additionally, while completing the PharmD program, one will need to complete a formal internship at a pharmacy.

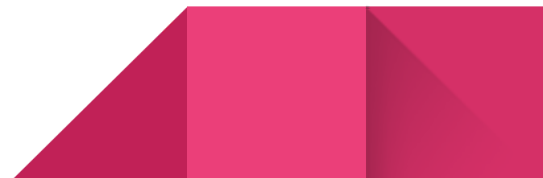
After successfully completing a pharmD program, pharmacists are required to take two licensing requirements – credential requirements. While these exams differ for each state, the state of Texas requires individuals to take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) and the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE). After passing both the exams with a score of 75 or higher, an individual must meet the following requirements to become a licensed pharmacist in Texas:

- At least 18 years of age
- Have obtained a B.S. in Pharmacy or a Pharm.D. degree from a Board approved (ACPE) pharmacy school
- Have completed 1500 hours of Board approved internship

The requirements listed above are specific to the state of Texas and are listed by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, thus, other states may have different specifications.

Looking at further opportunities for professional Pharmacists, individuals can join professional pharmacy organizations – associations that help influence and monitor pharmacy-related legislation, promote research in the field and standardization, and strive to improve patient care. A few examples of professional associations include the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), and American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS).

In accordance with the occupational outlook of pharmacists, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are currently about 322,200 pharmacists in the U.S. with the median annual pay being \$128,710 as of 2020. In terms of gender distribution, 53.3% of all Pharmacists are women, while 40.7% are men. The most common ethnicity of Pharmacists is White (66.2%), followed by Asian (18.9%) and Black or African American (7.6%). Moreover, The majority of Pharmacists are located in New York and Houston. The future trend of pharmacists is predicted to decline by 2 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



## Interview Summary

To gain insight from a professional working pharmacist, I interviewed Prathyusha Kunamneni who is employed as a registered pharmacist at Fate Pharmacy located in Dallas, Texas. She became a licensed pharmacist through the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and has a wide range of pharmaceutical experience and academic credentials in filling prescriptions; interfacing with customers, physicians and insurance providers; and identifying and resolving drug therapy and insurance issues.

Ms.Kunamneni completed her education requirements in Mysore, India in JSS College of Pharmacy by the year 2012. After having acquired her PharmD and bachelor's degree, she first started professionally practicing her career as a pharmacist in Hyderabad, India. In 2018, she moved to the United States with her family and started as an intern at Care Point Health Pharmacy (New Jersey) to learn the different pharmacy procedures in the U.S. as opposed to the ones in India. With a history of several years of practice, Ms.Kunamneni has an abundant experience as a pharmacist.

In my interview with Ms.Kunamneni, she was able to offer valuable insight on a pharmacist's work environment and job duties, her personal experience in pursuing a healthcare career, and advice to students, like myself, aspiring to become a pharmacist. To start the interview, I asked Ms.Kunamneni why she chose to pursue a career as a pharmacist. Ms.Kunamneni responded, "Growing up, I constantly looked up to my uncles who were doctors. The relationships they had with their patients were so beautiful that it made me want to expand my education and pursue a path in healthcare". After understanding Ms.Kunamneni's drive in becoming a pharmacist, I was able to learn that through becoming a pharmacist, she is able to meet in-person with all

her patients, counsel and assist them as needed, and cherish the precious patient-healthcare provider relationships. However, despite how passionate one may be regarding their job, there's always challenges that have to be overcome and mistakes to learn from. Filled with curiosity, I asked Ms.Kunamneni a follow up question regarding the challenges and mistakes she overcame and made as a pharmacist and how she dealt with these respective obstacles. She responded, "Moving to the States in 2018 was a drastic change for me. I had to learn the different procedures and adapt to the language barriers".Ms.Kunamneni described a period of time in which she had many spanish-speaking patients but was unable to fully connect with them due to her inability in speaking Spanish. She was able to overcome this obstacle by learning the basics of Spanish in order to better communicate with and understand her patients. This respective elaboration by Ms.Kunamneni was eye-opening as it illustrated her determination and passion towards her profession. In addition, she explained a situation in which she made a mistake when filling out a prescription. She said that by staying calm and communicating with her supervisors and prescribing physicians, she was able to resolve the situation. This taught me that patience, staying calm under pressure and effective communication are key attributes of a pharmacist.

In accordance with education information and advice, I asked Ms.Kunamneni to describe her personal experience in and advice regarding Pharmacy School. She responded, "Many of my friends dropped out of Pharmacy School because they were too overwhelmed by the thought of being so-well-versed with medical substances. However, by staying determined and organized, anyone can become a pharmacist".




**Work Based Learning Form**

Competitor Name: Bhavana Sudula

School: Heritage High School

HOSA Advisor Name: Kari, Lark

Contact Info: larkk@friscoisd.org

Date(s) of Experience	Time Checked-In:	Time Checked-Out:	Total Hours:	Host Signature:
12/27/2021	9:00am	12:00pm	3 hours	
12/28/2021	9:00am	12:00pm	3 hours	
02/02/2022	9:00am	12:00pm	3 hours	

*Thank you for taking this time to host a HOSA-Future Health Professionals Competitor! Please help them improve by providing the following feedback. HOSA members are responsible for this form as part of their event requirements, so please return it to them at the end of their learning experience. Thank you!*

Objectives to Evaluate	Exceeds Expectation	Met Expectation	Needs Improvement
Competitor effectively explained HOSA to host	✓		
Competitor communicated professionally and effectively to set up experience (email, phone, in person, etc...)	✓		
Competitor demonstrated punctuality	✓		
Competitor was professionally/appropriately attired for experience(s)	✓		
Competitor conducted themselves professionally	✓		
Additional Information/advice	Good luck!		

Host Name: Prathyusha Kunamneni

Title: Registered Pharmacist

Host Signature:




Company Name: Fate Pharmacy



## **Learning Outcomes Summary**

In December of 2021 and February of 2022, I was given the opportunity to have hands-on experience in a pharmacy (Fate Pharmacy) located in Dallas, Texas under the mentorship and guidance of registered pharmacist, Prathyusha Kunamneni. Over the course of shadowing, I was able to gain valuable insight on the professional work environment and work ethic of a prudent pharmacist.

During the three sessions of shadowing, the pharmacy consisted of Pharmacist Prathyusha, the pharmacy technician and myself. Every five to ten minutes, the pharmacist would get a phone call regarding a prescription or prescription refill. In order to complete the tasks of measuring, verifying and dispensing the medication, Pharmacist Prathyusha used the help of her pharmacy technician to effectively and efficiently complete the duties. Simultaneously, there were patients who came in-person to pick up their medications. This required Pharmacist Prathyusha to also keep track of the payment process and also counsel her patients regarding the proper intake of medication doses and answer any other questions they had. Experiencing this professional work environment of a pharmacist really opened my eyes to capture how important it is to have an efficient work ethic and effective communication skills as talking with fellow coworkers, patients and prescribers is important. Pharmacist Prathyusha was constantly being called to one place or another such as the cash register, the phone calls, answering questions of the pharmacy technician, filling prescriptions, etc. Overall, this experience taught me that the job of a pharmacist isn't as simple as I had initially thought it would be. It requires many skills and a focused mindset to become an excellent pharmacist.



### Skill Checklist

As described previously on pages two and three, pharmacists are responsible for completing a multitude of tasks. However, in recent years due to the influx of the CoronaVirus cases globally, many pharmacists have had to learn the procedure of conducting a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test. In other words, as the public started observing symptoms for the CoronaVirus, they would turn to pharmacists as a common option to get tested. Pharmacists in many highly affected urban areas such as Frisco, Texas had to constantly conduct these respective tests. Thus, as this skill is currently and will continue to be an important practice of pharmacists across the world, I have decided to learn and execute the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test in reference to the INDICAID procedure.

Competitor #: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Phase Scientific - INDICAID COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

Title: INDICAID COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test | For Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen

Author: INDICAID

Copyright: Phase Scientific Page Numbers: 9-11

<b>Skill: INDICAID COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test</b>	JUDGE USE ONLY <i>Comments</i>
1. Wear a KN95 mask, gloves and eye-face shield	
2. Place the materials on a horizontal (flat) surface for running the test.	
3. Insert the entire collection tip of the swab provided (usually ½ to ¾ of an inch, or 1 or 1.5 cm) inside the nostril.	

<p>4. Firmly sample the nasal wall by rotating the swab in a circular path against the nasal wall at least 4 times. Take approximately 15 seconds to collect the specimen. Be sure to collect any nasal drainage that may be present on the swab.</p> <p>Repeat in the other nostrils using the same swab.</p>	
<p>5. The Buffer Solution Vial cap is composed of two parts (purple and white). Remove the entire cap. Stir the swab into the Buffer Solution, ensuring that the swab head is fully submerged by tilting the vial.</p>	
<p>6. Discard the swab and close the entire vial cap tightly. Immediately proceed to the Test Procedures to process the sample.</p>	
<p>7. Remove the Test Device from its packaging.</p>	
<p>8. Remove the purple top half of the cap to expose the dropper tip.</p>	
<p>9. Hold the vial vertically above the sample well. Slowly squeeze and apply 3 drops of the Buffer Solution into the sample well of the Test Device.</p>	
<p>10. Read the test line and control line results promptly at 20 minutes, and not earlier to ensure proper test performance.</p> <p>Results after 25 minutes should not be used.</p>	
<p>11. Notify the respective patient via email regarding the test results.</p>	



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