

40. Health Science Cluster - Pharmacy Careers (4 hours)

Purpose/Abstract: To introduce students to Pharmacy Careers

NCCCS Adult Education Standards: R.2.1.1, W.1.1.4, M.5.2.1

Learning Objective:
By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Define the field of pharmacy and describe its role within the healthcare system, highlighting key responsibilities and functions of pharmacy professionals.
- Demonstrate an understanding of different pharmacy career paths
- Connect the concepts of addition and subtraction within the context of pharmacy operations

Soft Skills	professionalism, communication, enthusiasm & attitude	Resources	<p>Skills to Pay the Bills (STPTB) (for instructor reference to define each soft skill category)</p> <p>Math: Word Problems Word Problems Check-Up Interactive Worksheet Word Problems Check-Up 2</p> <p>29-2052.00 - Pharmacy Technicians</p> <p>NC Career Clusters Guide (for instructor reference)</p> <p>Handouts: Vocabulary - one for each student Reading Comprehension - one for each student</p>
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Additional Materials

- Vocabulary handout, one for each student (print scaffolded version as required)
- Reading Comprehension, one for each student
- Art supplies (glue, glitter, markers, paint, etc.)
- Pencils, paper, and scissors
- Computers for student use

Icons	 Activity	 Check-In	 Review
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PREPARATION

- Review the worksheets and games on [education.com](https://www.education.com) and prepare to assign the interactive worksheets to students.
- Review the [Instructional Support Guide](#) and print/prepare referenced scaffolds.
- Print handouts.
- Familiarize yourself with the [NC Career Clusters Guide](#).
- Familiarize yourself with [O*NET](#)
- Familiarize yourself with [Skills to Pay the Bills](#), though it won't be used directly in this lesson.



INTRODUCTION (30 min)

Welcome students to the class!

Inform students that this is the first lesson in the Health Science Cluster. Have each student take turns sharing their personal experiences, if any, related to pharmacies or any knowledge they may already have about the topic. This could include sharing about visits to a pharmacy, interactions with pharmacists, or any general understanding they have about what happens in a pharmacy. Encourage active listening and positive interactions among students as they share their thoughts.

Introduce the main topic of the lesson by discussing the critical role of pharmacy within the healthcare system.

Explain that pharmacy professionals play a crucial role in ensuring that patients receive the right medications and understand how to use them safely. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are experts in medications, and they work closely with doctors and other healthcare providers to make sure that patients' medical needs are met accurately.

Highlight that pharmacy professionals are like the "medication experts" of the healthcare team. They review prescriptions from doctors, check for potential interactions between different medications, and provide essential information to patients about how to take their medicines properly. This is important because taking medications correctly can have a big impact on a person's health and well-being. In a way, pharmacy professionals are like healthcare superheroes who ensure that people get the right treatment.

Share the objectives of the lesson.

VOCABULARY, READING & WRITING (45 min)

Inform students that working individually or in pairs, they will fill in the blanks with key terms associated with pharmacy careers. This will help them become familiar with important vocabulary they'll encounter throughout the lesson.

Distribute the Vocabulary handout to students.

Have a few students read out their completed sentences and a few students share out the definitions.

Distribute the Reading Comprehension handout to students.

Allow 20 minutes for students to read through and discuss.

REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Bring the class back together.

✓ Ask these questions one by one and have a few students take turns to respond.

- *What do pharmacy professionals help patients with?*
- *What are two different places where pharmacy professionals work?*
- *Why is good communication important for pharmacy professionals?*

- *Why is accuracy important when working with medicines?*

Emphasize the importance of professionalism, communication, enthusiasm & attitude in pharmacy careers.

Lower Level	Higher Level
Provide a word bank with the missing terms and offer visual cues to aid understanding. Pair students up for the reading activity.	Encourage them to write short definitions for each term in their own words.

MATHEMATICS (45 min)

Explain that students will practice solving multi-step addition and subtraction problems in this section. Connect it to how this skill can be applied while billing or other tasks in the pharmacy.

Model a multi-step addition word problem on the board such as
A pharmacy receives an order for 50 bottles of cough syrup. Each bottle contains 120 milliliters of syrup. They also receive an order for 30 boxes of allergy medication, with each box containing 24 tablets. How many milliliters of cough syrup and tablets of allergy medication will the pharmacy need to prepare for these orders?

Explain the steps to solve the problem.

Assign the interactive worksheets listed below to students one after the other allowing ample time for completion. Students can work independently or in pairs. Walk around as students work and clarify their doubts.

- [Word Problems](#)
- [Word Problems Check-Up | Interactive Worksheet](#)
- [Word Problems Check-Up 2](#)

 REFLECTION (10 minutes)

✓ Review the answers to the worksheets. Have students share situations in which they will use these skills in a pharmacy.

Lower Level	Higher Level
Provide support individually while students work on the problems	Encourage students to list out a few real scenarios where they might use multi-step addition and subtraction in a pharmacy.

GROUP WORK (60 min)



Organize students into groups of four, ensuring a mix of perspectives and skills within each team. Assign each group a specific pharmacy career path such as retail pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, or compounding pharmacy.

Encourage students to use the internet to find information about the pharmacy career path assigned to their group, Tell students to look for the activities, tasks, and functions associated with each career path.

Instruct students to collaborate to create either a visually engaging poster or an informative presentation that highlights the intricacies of their assigned pharmacy career path. The poster could include images, diagrams, and succinct bullet points. The presentation could involve slides with images, text.

For their assigned pharmacy career path, each group will outline and detail the following aspects:

- Key responsibilities of professionals in that pharmacy career.
- Functions performed on a day-to-day basis.
- How the role contributes to patient care and the healthcare system.
- Essential soft skills and qualities required for success in the chosen path.

Circulate the room to check that all students get a chance to participate in the research and presentation creation.

 REFLECTION (20 minutes)

✓ Have each group present their findings. Guide a brief discussion around the findings of the presentations. Discuss how each role contributes to overall patient care and the broader healthcare system.

INDEPENDENT WORK TIME (45 min)

Share [29-2052.00 - Pharmacy Technicians](#) with students and allow 15 minutes for them to read through the details of the role.

Divide students in pairs and have them select two tasks or activities from this link and practice role-playing the activities by using effective communication, enthusiasm and attitude and professionalism.

Walk around and observe how students incorporate the soft skills in their practice.

 REFLECTION (15 minutes)

✓ Have a few volunteers perform their role-plays. Provide constructive feedback and encourage the rest of the class to add to their performances.

WRAP-UP & REFLECTION (15 min)

Have 2-3 students share what they liked about the lesson and what interests them about pharmacy careers.

Distribute exit slips to students.
Ask for a few volunteers to share their reflections.
Collect and review the answers.

Vocabulary Practice

Directions:

- Fill in the blanks with the missing word.
- Find the definitions of the words.

1. Pharmacy professionals play a crucial role in ensuring that patients receive the right _____ at the right times.
2. Good communication skills are essential for pharmacy professionals to effectively explain medication _____ to patients.
3. Pharmacy technicians work in places called "retail pharmacies," where they fill prescriptions and provide advice to _____.
4. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians collaborate with other healthcare providers to guarantee that individuals receive appropriate and effective _____.
5. Accuracy is of utmost importance in pharmacy careers, as even a small mistake with medicines can have _____ consequences.

Vocabulary Practice

Directions:

- Fill in the blanks with right word from this list
 - customers, significant, treatment, medications, instructions

1. Pharmacy professionals play a crucial role in ensuring that patients receive the right _____ at the right times.
2. Good communication skills are essential for pharmacy professionals to effectively explain medication _____ to patients.
3. Pharmacy technicians work in places called "retail pharmacies," where they fill prescriptions and provide advice to _____.
4. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians collaborate with other healthcare providers to guarantee that individuals receive appropriate and effective _____.
5. Accuracy is of utmost importance in pharmacy careers, as even a small mistake with medicines can have _____ consequences.

Reading Comprehension

Directions:

- Read the passage and discuss it with your partner.

Exploring Pharmacy Careers

Pharmacy careers play a vital role in helping people stay healthy. Pharmacy professionals are experts in medicines, and they work to make sure patients get the right medications at the right times. Some pharmacy professionals work in places called "retail pharmacies," where they fill prescriptions from doctors and provide advice to customers. They answer questions about how to take medicines and help people understand the instructions on medicine bottles.

Other pharmacy professionals work in hospitals. They help doctors and nurses choose the best medicines for patients. They also make sure that patients who leave the hospital have the right medicines to take at home. Pharmacy professionals in hospitals work closely with the healthcare team to make sure everyone is on the same page about patients' treatments.

No matter where they work, pharmacy professionals need to have good communication skills. They need to talk to patients and other healthcare workers. Being friendly, patient, and clear in their explanations is very important. Pharmacy professionals also need to be careful and accurate because even a small mistake with medicines can be dangerous.

Pharmacy careers offer a chance to help people every day. Whether it's filling prescriptions, giving advice, or making sure patients have the right medicines, pharmacy professionals make a positive impact on people's lives.

Reflection Exit Slip

In one sentence, describe what you learned in this lesson.

Today, I learned _____.

Is one of the careers discussed today of interest to you? Why or why not?

I liked / did not like _____ career because _____

Is there anything you still need help understanding?

What's one question you have?

Circle the emoji that shows how you feel about your mastery of content in this lesson.



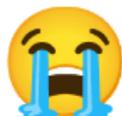
Happy



Smart



Confused



Sad



Angry