Background

This profile combines three related fields. All three fields work with laws and regulations as well as the population-based impact of their work.

Pharmacy laws govern pharmacists, the pharmaceutical industry, and the profession, affecting patent law, academia, medication-related litigation, and boards of pharmacy.

Regulatory affairs pharmacists are concerned with the regulations and guidelines for clinical trials and other aspects of human research.

Public policy determines how regulations, guidelines, and laws affect the patients for whom pharmacists provide care.

Characteristics

- 70% have entry-level pharmacy degrees
- 30% hold a PharmD degree
- 21% earn between $80,000-$100,000 per year
- 37% earn $150,000 or more per year
- 97% are satisfied with their role
- 88% feel challenged in their position

Insider Perspective

Respondents said that the most appealing aspects are impact on public and patient safety, diversity of issues, flexible hours, travel, and the daily challenges of the job.

The least appealing aspects of the job were the bureaucracy, politics, and travel. Some pharmacists enjoy travel while others do not.

Top Career Satisfaction Indicators

1. Self-worth—Ability to create positive outcomes.
2. Unique Practice Environment—Can vary by role but generally different from normal.
3. Interacting with Colleagues—Tend to interact on a regular basis.
4. Parental Leave Opportunities—Ranked highly in this field.