



Employment Outlook • August 2015

Employment Forecast for the Pharmacy Workforce in South Carolina

Every two years, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the South Carolina Labor Market Information office in the Department of Employment and Workforce collaborate to estimate future employment levels in terms of the number of jobs available for a wide variety of healthcare occupations. Their most recent state-level data release covers the period from 2012 to 2022. Summarized below are their estimates of how demand for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and assistants are expected to change in South Carolina over the next few years. The numbers of anticipated job openings each year include those due to growth (new jobs) and those created when people leave the workforce through retirement, career change, or for other reasons (replacements).

Pharmacy Occupations	Employment (# of jobs)			Total % Change 2012 - 2022	Average Annual Job Openings
	Actual 2012	Estimated 2022	Total Change		
Pharmacy Technicians	6,195	7,481	1,286	21%	190
Pharmacists	5,093	5,838	745	15%	196
Pharmacy Aides/Assistants	326	369	43	13%	10

Note: The job counts in this table are based on survey data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and are not related to counts of professionals presented in the "South Carolina Health Professions Data Book." This table is organized according to the total % change over time. See http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_projections_methods.htm for the methodology used by BLS to determine job estimates.

The majority of growth in jobs for Pharmacy Technicians (68%) is expected to come from new jobs rather than the need to replace people leaving the occupation. The majority of openings for both Pharmacists (62%) and pharmacy aides (60%) will be due to the need to replace those leaving the workforce.

Pharmacy aides/assistants are generally trained on site as needed to meet the clerical needs of the local pharmacy. In the 2012-13 academic year 147 Pharmacy Technicians completed certificate programs in the state. In that same year, South Carolina graduated a total of 239 new Pharmacists: 186 from the combined program at USC/MUSC and 53 from South University which had their first pharmacy graduating class in 2013. Another new pharmacy program at Presbyterian College graduated their first class of 76 new pharmacists in the 2013-14 academic year.

Data Sources: Unpublished tables provided by the South Carolina Labor Market Information office in the Department of Employment and Workforce "2012 - 2022 Healthcare Workforce in South Carolina by Occupational Title." Graduation figures are from the Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Statistics "Program Major Completions 2012-2013 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences" downloaded November 2014 and from the Presbyterian College website.