

Be a Pharmacy Officer

in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



> About the Commissioned Corps

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps protects, promotes, and advances the health and safety of the Nation. With more than 6,000 officers, the Commissioned Corps is one of the Nation's seven uniformed services and resides in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the world's foremost public health service, it is composed entirely of officers who have been commissioned on the basis of their health-related training.

Commissioned officers deliver ongoing health promotion and disease prevention programs and are called on to provide onsite clinical and public health expertise in times of national emergencies and disasters. A career in the Commissioned Corps offers unlimited opportunities to serve your country while improving the quality of people's lives and making a real difference in public health.

> What It Means To Be a Pharmacy Officer in the Commissioned Corps

Pharmacy officers in the Commissioned Corps work throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in other Federal agencies and programs, including the following:

- Indian Health Service
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Department of Homeland Security

- U.S. Coast Guard
- Health Resources and Services Administration

Pharmacy officers in the Corps:

- Participate in patient care teams
- Approve and monitor new drugs
- Conduct biomedical and epidemiological research
- Respond to public health emergencies—vaccinating patients, assisting hospitals, and coordinating with State and local officials
- Administer health care policy

The focus is on improving pharmaceutical care for entire populations. While there is plenty of direct patient care, there are opportunities to work in organized community disease prevention and treatment programs that can make an impact on overall disease rates.

> Pay

Starting base pay and potential bonuses vary depending on level of experience, accreditation and training, geographic location, and number of dependents, if any. Base pay increases with promotions and years of service. Tax-free compensation is provided for housing and meals. While it is difficult to compare your take-home pay with someone in the private sector, your base pay, in addition to nontaxable income and benefits, provides a competitive compensation package that grows with years of service and promotions. The U.S. Public Health Service also understands the financial burden of pharmacy school and, in coordination with certain Federal agencies,

may offer loan repayment and other educational and family support programs. More detailed information regarding how compensation in the Corps compares to pay in the private sector is available at www.usphs.gov.

➤ Benefits

As an officer in the Commissioned Corps, you will enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you will experience in the private sector, and Commissioned Corps benefits are generous. They include:

- Health care and dental care at no cost
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year
- Paid sick leave
- Paid maternity leave
- Malpractice insurance coverage
- A retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service

Many additional benefits are listed at www.usphs.gov. Officers in the Commissioned Corps have opportunities for mobility among government agencies and career advancement in diverse work settings. The Corps encourages you to expand your knowledge base and grow professionally so that you can effectively deal with the challenges of improving public health. Tuition and long-term training opportunities may be available.

➤ Special Degree and License Requirements

All Commissioned Corps officers must meet several basic qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age, and pass a physical examination. To be a pharmacy officer, you also need a:

- B.S. or Pharm.D. degree from a program that is accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education

- Current, unrestricted, and valid pharmacy license to practice in one of the 50 States; Washington, DC; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; or Guam

If you just graduated from pharmacy school and do not yet have a license, you may still apply to the Commissioned Corps, and you may be appointed for a limited tour of duty while you pursue your license.

➤ Join America's Public Health Team

If you are a pharmacist or pharmacy student interested in joining the fight for public health, or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our Web site at www.usphs.gov.

