**Education of a community pharmacist in China**

According to the policy of China Food and Drug Administration, a person who meets any of the following criteria can apply for the exam of the certificated pharmacist:

(1) technical secondary school degree in pharmacy, with more than 7-year work experience in pharmacy;

(2) college degree in pharmacy, with more than 5-year work experience in pharmacy;

(3) bachelor degree in pharmacy, with more than 3-year work experience in pharmacy;

(4) master degree in pharmacy, more than 1-year work experience in pharmacy; and

(5) Ph.D. degree in pharmacy. After passing the certification exam and registering in a provincial pharmacists’ association, the applicant can become a formal licensed pharmacist in regular pharmacy.

There is not a standard set of training applicable to all pharmacists. Such kind of policy design is because of the lack of systematic pharmacy education program in the 1980s and 1990s. Thus, many pharmacists worked at community pharmacies just got the degree of college and below. With the development of bachelor pharmacy education programs in China since the 2000s, China Food and Drug Administration is planning to only permit a person with bachelor and above degree to apply for certification exam in the future.

**References**

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