



Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic)

Empowering future pharmacy professionals



S Buys Academy

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Who Should Enrol?

The course is suitable for any person, whether employed in a pharmacy or not, and interested in pursuing a career in Pharmacy. The course will provide the learner with scientific knowledge and practical skills needed to perform the support functions in pharmacy. Completion of work experience hours in all sectors of Pharmacy ensures that the learner is trained as a generalist who can practice in any category of Pharmacy once qualified.

Duration of the Course

The Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) Course is designed to be completed within 6 months. However, learners have a maximum of 12 months to complete the course, as per the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) rules.

Please note that if the learner did not finish the course with the Academy within the contractual 6 months, the learner will have to pay for a re-admission.

Admission Requirements

- National Senior Certificate (NSC), certified by Umalusi
- Mathematics (NOT MATHEMATICAL LITERACY) at NQF Level 4 or recognised equivalent (with a pass rate of 30% or higher)
- One of the Natural sciences (Life/Physical Science) at NQF Level 4 or recognised equivalent (with a pass rate of 30% or higher)
- All learners accessing this qualification should be able to read, write, and communicate in English and use a computer.
- The Academy has a mature age course entry option for candidates over the age of 45 years. Kindly email apply@sbuys.co.za if you require further information.
- If you are a foreign applicant, kindly contact apply@sbuys.co.za.

Course Details

- The Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) course is a hybrid that combines online distance and in-person training.
- The Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) course is divided into three components: **Knowledge Component (KC)**, **Practical Skills Component (PC)** and **Work Experience Component (WC)**.
- The **Knowledge Component** combines pre-recorded presentations (the learner works through the course material independently) and online real-time presentations with facilitators.
- The Summative Assessments (Examinations) are done in-person at the selected Training Laboratories (Carletonville, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban).
- The **Practical Skills Component** is presented in-person in the selected Training Laboratory.
- The **Work Experience Component** consists of work-based hours that should be completed in an A-graded pharmaceutical facility under the supervision of a tutor/preceptor.

Course Content

Key:

KC = Knowledge Component	PC = Practical Component	WC = Work-Experience Component
SA = Summative Assessment	POE = Portfolio of Evidence	KM / PM / WM = Curriculum Codes

Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) Course:

STUDY UNIT	STUDY UNIT NAME		
BL01	Introduction to the Pharmaceutical Environment		
KC (KM-01)	10 credits = 100 notional learning hours	Lectures: Pre-recorded Audio-Visual Presentations for self-study Tutorials: 10 days x 1 hour tutorial per day	KC SA: 2 days: 1 paper per day of 2.5 hours each
BL02	Stock Distribution & Control		
KC (KM-02)	4 credits = 40 notional learning hours	Lectures: Pre-recorded Audio-Visual Presentations for self-study Tutorials: 4 days x 1 hour tutorial per day	KC SA: 1 day: 2-hour paper
PC (PM-01)		2 days of practical skills training in a training laboratory	PC SA: 1 day for 1.5 hours
WC (WM-01)	5 credits = 50 notional learning hours	7 days of work experience in an Institutional Pharmacy.	SA of POE with Logbook and evidence
BL03	Compounding of Non-Sterile Extemporaneous Preparations		
KC (KM-08)	3 credits = 30 notional learning hours	Lectures: Pre-recorded Audio-Visual Presentations for self-study Tutorials: 4 days x 1 hour tutorial per day	KC SA: 1 day: 2-hour paper
PC (PM-07)	5 credits = 50 notional learning hours	3 days of practical skills training in a training laboratory	PC SA: 1 day for 2 hours
WC (WM-04)		5 days of work experience in a Community Pharmacy	SA of POE with Logbook and evidence

BL04	Non-sterile Medicine Manufacture		
KC (KM-05)	6 credits = 60 notional learning hours	Lectures: Pre-recorded Audio-Visual Presentations for self-study Tutorials: 10 days x 1 hour tutorial per day	KC SA: 2 days: 1 paper per day of 2.5 hours each
PC (PM-04)		3 days of practical skills training in a training laboratory	PC SA: 1 day for 2 hours
WC (WM-07)	4 credits = 40 notional learning hours	5 days of work experience in a Manufacturing Pharmacy (simulated in a training laboratory for learners not full-time employed in manufacturing)	SA of POE with Logbook and evidence
BL05	General Housekeeping		
KC (KM-15)	2 credits = 20 notional learning hours	Lectures: Pre-recorded Audio-Visual Presentations for self-study Tutorials: 2 days x 1 hour tutorial per day	KC SA: 1 day: 2-hour paper
PC (PM-01)		1 day of practical skills training in a training laboratory	PC SA: 1 day for 1.5 hours
WC (WM-01)		4 days of work experience in a Community Pharmacy	SA of POE with Logbook and evidence
BL06	Operate Computers & Computer Software		
PC (PM-18)	4 credits = 40 notional learning hours	2 days of practical skills training in a training laboratory	PC SA: 1 day for 1.5 hours
TOTAL (62 credits & 620 notional learning hours)	KC: 25	PC: 21	WC: 16

In-Person Contact Time



- The applicant must travel to the selected Training Laboratory for the Summative Assessments (Examinations), Re-Assessments (if necessary), Practical Skills Training, and Manufacturing Simulation. In-person attendance at these academic events is mandatory.
- The applicant will bear the costs of travel, accommodation, and meals while attending these academic events.
- The Academic Calendar was designed to allow minimal travel to the Training Laboratory.
- The total contact in-person contact time is 27 days and is divided as follows:
 - Summative Assessments - Six (6) Days (between 1 and 4 hours per day)
 - Practical Skills Training - Sixteen (11) Days (full days)
 - Practical Skills Assessment - Five (5) Days (maximum 2 hours per day)



Work Experience Component (WC) Details

- Covers all required work-based learning across different pharmacy sectors.
- Learners must complete hours in multiple pharmacy categories.
- Host pharmacies must be **A-graded** by the SAPC but do not need SAPC training-facility status.
- Supervising pharmacists do not need tutor registration but must have **3+ years' experience**.
- The Academy arranges placements to ensure full sector exposure.
- Learners receive a **Portfolio of Evidence** to complete during WC.
- **Basic Pharmacist's Assistant learners complete 21 days (8 hours/day):**
 - Community Pharmacy: **9 days**
 - Institutional (Hospital) Pharmacy: **7 days**
 - Manufacturing Pharmacy or Simulation: **5 days**



Certification

After completing the course, the learner must complete the External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA) with the SAPC. Once competence is proven in the EISA, the SAPC will register the learner as a qualified Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) and the Academy will provide the Completion Certificate.

The Occupational Certificate:
Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) Fee for
2026 is R 35 490

The fee includes the Academy Admin
Fee and course fee, but not the SACP
registration and the annual fee



Course Fees 2026

Occupational Certificate: Pharmacist's Assistant (Basic) fee layout and different options:

- The Academy's non-refundable Admin Fee of R500 (incl. VAT) is payable when applicants submit their initial documentation.
- The South African Pharmacy Council's (SAPC) 2026 registration and annual fee per learner. This amount should be paid to the Academy and NOT the SAPC. The Academy facilitates new registrations on behalf of the SAPC.

PAYMENT OPTION 1 (discount of 5%):

- Pay a deposit of **R 11 490 upon enrolment** as per the acceptance letter.
- Pay the balance of **R 21 750 before the end of the enrolment month** to qualify for a **5% discount** on the course fees.
- Total plan fees: **R 33 740 = R 500 + R 11 490 + R 21 750**
- Plus 2026 SAPC fees

PAYMENT OPTION 2:

- Pay a deposit of **R 11 490 upon enrolment** as per the acceptance letter.
- Pay five (5) consecutive monthly payments of **R 4 700** each (commencing at the end of the start date month per the acceptance letter).
- Total plan: **R 35 490 = R 500 + R 11 490 + (5 x R4 700)**
- Plus 2026 SAPC fees



Terms and Conditions are Applicable

The course fee includes:

- Online SAPC learner registration process.
- Hard copy study guides and full access to the e-learning platform (formative assessments, electronic guides, pre-recorded content, tutorial and practical recordings, and WC explanations).
- Automated academic reminder emails.
- Compounding box (basic & post-basic) and personalised lab coat (grey: basic, white: post-basic).
- USB with all pre-recorded KC presentations.
- Real-time Zoom tutorials and Summative Assessments for all KC.
- PC training at the Training Laboratory, including formative, summative, and first reassessment.
- WC placement (community/institutional) where required, plus Manufacturing Pharmacy simulation.
- First-time assessment of the WC Portfolio.
- Study period allowance:
 - Basic: 6 months (extendable to 12 months at an additional fee).
- Uploading of the Statement of Results to the SAPC website for EISA application.

The course fee does not include:

- SAPC learner registration and annual fees.
- Laptop and data required for e-learning and Zoom tutorials.
- Travel, catering, and accommodation for practical training.
- Reassessment fees for KC or WC Portfolio (beyond the first included practical reassessment).
- EISA (Basic) examination fee.



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