

Assessment Report on the Professional Employment of Graduates from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU)

Introduction In the modern educational ecosystem, one of the foremost indicators of a higher education institution's effectiveness is the employability of its graduates and their successful integration into the labor market. Within this context, aligning academic programs with contemporary industry standards, as well as ensuring the practical applicability of the knowledge and skills acquired by students, is of paramount importance.

This report aims to present the findings from the professional employment assessment of graduates from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Yerevan State Medical University. The primary objectives of the study were to determine the employment rate of the alumni, identify their specific fields of professional activity, and uncover opportunities for strategic development and continued enhancement within the educational process.

Methodology and Key Findings The research was conducted via a voluntary survey, gathering responses from 82 graduates across various academic cohorts. The voluntary nature of the survey facilitated the collection of diverse and relatively objective data.

- ❑ **Demographics and Geographic Reach:** Survey results indicate that while a significant proportion of the alumni reside in Yerevan, there is also representation from various regions of the Republic of Armenia and abroad (including Russia, the United States, and Argentina). This highlights the broad geographic footprint of the educational program.
- ❑ **Early Labor Market Integration:** Employment data reveals that the majority of graduates secured employment while still pursuing their studies. Specifically, nearly half entered the workforce during their undergraduate (Bachelor's) studies, while a portion began during their graduate (Master's) degree programs. This demonstrates a strong trend of early labor market integration among the student body.
- ❑ **Recruitment Mechanisms:** An analysis of recruitment mechanisms shows that the predominant method for securing employment was through public job postings (approximately 72%), which points to a highly competitive labor market. Concurrently, professional referrals and the institutional support of the university also played a measurable role in job placement.
- ❑ **Fields of Professional Activity:** The graduates' fields of professional engagement are quite diverse. The highest concentrations of employment were recorded in pharmaceutical representation (41%) and retail and wholesale distribution (38%). Conversely, involvement in research and development (R&D) and manufacturing sectors remains comparatively low, which may suggest opportunities for targeted programmatic focus to support broader sectoral development within the local industry.

- ❑ Employment Status and Career Stage: The vast majority of graduates (91%) are engaged as hired employees. An analysis of their organizational roles shows a predominance of specialist-level positions (67%). While this distribution is natural for early-career professionals, it remains an important metric for evaluating long-term professional advancement and leadership opportunities.

Assessment of Educational Quality A critical component of this study was evaluating the quality of education from the perspective of the alumni. A substantial portion of the respondents provided valuable, constructive feedback regarding areas for continued curriculum enhancement, notably identifying opportunities to:

- ❑ Further strengthen hands-on, applied practical skills to complement the strong theoretical foundation.
- ❑ Accelerate the continuous modernization of instructional materials and curriculum content to keep pace with rapid industry advancements.
- ❑ Enhance and upgrade current laboratory infrastructure to better align with evolving contemporary industry standards.
- ❑ Expand the focus on foreign language proficiency and professional communication skills to better support global market engagement.
- ❑ Broaden student exposure to the latest modern pharmaceuticals and contemporary market demands.

These observations provide a vital diagnostic foundation for the continuous improvement of the faculty's academic programs.

Conclusion The findings of this research demonstrate that a significant majority of graduates from the YSMU Faculty of Pharmacy successfully integrate into the labor market and actively contribute to various sectors of the pharmaceutical profession.

Simultaneously, the data highlights valuable opportunities to further elevate the educational framework—primarily by continuing to cultivate practical competencies, updating academic content, and enhancing technical infrastructure.

Recommendations: To ensure the sustained competitiveness of our graduates in both local and global labor markets, it is highly recommended to:

- ❑ Strengthen the practical and clinical components of the curriculum.
- ❑ Continue to update and modernize all instructional materials.
- ❑ Invest in and upgrade laboratory infrastructure.
- ❑ Foster robust international collaboration and exchange.

Ultimately, the insights derived from this report serve as an evidence-based foundation for the strategic development and continuous quality enhancement of the Faculty of Pharmacy's academic offerings.