

## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

### Pharmacy Technician Certificate of Completion

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Pharmacy Technician training program prepares individuals for employment in the pharmacy industry. Pharmacy technicians are skilled workers who are educated and trained to work in a pharmacy and assist in all areas of the pharmacy not requiring the professional judgment of the registered pharmacist. Some current practice areas for the pharmacy technician include retail, hospital, manufacturing, disease state management and mail order and insurance claim specialists. The pharmacy technician processes prescriptions and medication orders and plays an integral role in maintaining the pharmacy department.

Courses in the Pharmacy Technician program are offered in an online and hybrid format. The curriculum focuses on the abilities needed to assist the pharmacist and provide the skills necessary to process prescriptions accurately, participate in administration and management of a pharmacy and maintain inventory. Topics of study include medical terminology, anatomy and functions of the human body, therapeutic classification and drug names, pharmacy procedures, pharmaceutical calculations, pharmacy law and interpersonal communication. Students will have a working knowledge of sterile technique, standards of practice, quality assurance and patient confidentiality. In addition, students will develop and practice communication skills needed to function in a professional setting. In order to gain workplace experience, students will also participate in a hospital and retail pharmacy practicum.

The Pharmacy Technician certificate program prepares students to pass the National Pharmacy Technician Certification exam required by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to practice as a pharmacy technician in the state of Oregon.

**ACCREDITATION**

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

**PROGRAM COSTS**

(beyond standard tuition/fees and textbooks)

**Material Costs**

- In some cases \$150 to \$300 for fees associated with required immunizations and tuberculosis screening
- \$45-65 drug screening
- \$55 background check
- \$65 for American Heart Association CPR for Health Care Providers certificate
- Distance students will be responsible for the cost of travel and expenses to the COCC campus for the two lecture labs in the Fall and Winter terms.

**Enrollment Fees**

- Program fee of \$150 per term (or a total of \$450 for the three-term pharmacy technician cohort)

**PROGRAM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**Academic Entrance Requirements**

- Required:
  - MTH 058 Math Literacy I, MTH 065 Algebra II or higher or minimum placement into MTH 095 Intermediate Algebra (4 credits)
  - Recommended pathway MTH 010 Developmental Mathematics (if needed), MTH 058 Math Literacy I, MTH 098 Math Literacy II
  - WR 065 Rhetoric/Critical Thinking II/WR 095 Basic Writing II or minimum placement scores resulting in WR 121 Academic Composition placement (4 credits)
  - Complete COCC's online orientation available at [cocc.edu/onlineorientation](http://cocc.edu/onlineorientation).

**Other Entrance Requirements**

- Required:
  - A high school diploma, a high school transcript noting successful graduation, or a GED
  - 18 years of age or older
  - All COCC students enrolled in Pharmacy Technician Program (which includes requirements for practical experience) may have to pass Criminal History Checks (CHC) as a condition of their acceptance into a medical or other facility for training. Students who do not pass the CHC may not be eligible to complete training at affiliated practicum sites, to sit for licensure or certification exams, or to be hired for some professional positions. Students who believe that their past history may interfere with their ability to complete the program of study or to obtain licensure or certification in their chosen field should contact the appropriate state board or the program director.
  - 10 panel drug screen completed as a condition of acceptance into the program. Students must complete a 10 panel urine drug screen with the vendor chosen by COCC prior to entry into the Pharmacy Technician Program. With the exception of certain prescribed medications, students with a positive drug screen, which prevents them from attending clinical, will be disqualified from entering the program. Please refer to the Pharmacy Technician Handbook website for more detailed information [cocc.edu/programs/pharmacy-tech/pharmacy-tech-advising-information](http://cocc.edu/programs/pharmacy-tech/pharmacy-tech-advising-information).
  - Documentation of current immunizations (MMR, Tdap, Varicella, Hep B, Flu, TB, Blood Titer)
  - American Heart Association Health Care Provider or American Red Cross CPR card

**PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**Academic Requirements**

- Students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA to earn a COCC certificate or degree.
- All prerequisites courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

**Additional Requirements**

- Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA while enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician program. Students who do not meet this standard may be dismissed from the program.
- If a student is arrested for any reason while in the Pharmacy Technician program it should be reported to the program director immediately. The information will be reviewed and may affect the student's ability to obtain a pharmacy technician license. If a student is unable to obtain a pharmacy technician license he/she will be unable to complete the practicum and will be dismissed from the Pharmacy Technician program.

**PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Prerequisite Courses**

AH 115	Cultural Responsiveness in Allied Health	3
MTH 095	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	4
WR 121	Academic Composition	4

**Core Courses**

PHM 100	Pharmacy Technician Practice I	5
PHM 101	Pharmacy Tech Law and Ethics	3
PHM 110	Pharmacy Calculations	3
PHM 115	Retail Simulation Lab	2
PHM 120	Pharmacology I	5
PHM 130	Pharmacology II	5
PHM 140	Pharmacy Technician Practice II	5
PHM 145	Institutional Simulation Lab	2
PHM 181	Pharmacy Technician Seminar	2
PHM 190	Pharm Tech Practicum I	4
PHM 191	Pharm Tech Practicum II	4

**Total Credits 51**

**ADVISING NOTES**

Program (PHM) courses begin once per year in fall term. Students wishing to register in the fall Pharmacy Technician cohort must meet the basic prerequisite competencies and may register according to seat availability on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the priority registration schedule.

Once admitted to the program, students must obtain a two-year nonrenewable Pharmacy Technician License from the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. This license is required to participate in the Pharmacy Technician practicum courses. Applicants must have a high school diploma, a high school transcript noting successful graduation, or a GED and be at least 18 years of age. Application for the license will require a background check and fingerprinting. Students unable to obtain a pharmacy technician license will not be able to complete training at affiliated practicum sites or obtain employment in a pharmacy. Students who believe their personal history may interfere with their ability to obtain a license should contact the program director. Information for licensure is available from the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and can be found at [pharmacy.state.or.us](http://pharmacy.state.or.us) or by calling 971.673.0001.

Students must be flexible during the spring term to participate in the practicum. Students must perform a three-week block of practicum in a hospital or institution and a three-week block of practicum in a retail or community pharmacy. The practicum will be scheduled by the Pharmacy Technician department and the student must be free of commitments to complete the practicum.

Students must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma, a high school transcript noting successful graduation, or a GED, have no criminal record and pass a National Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam to apply to the Oregon Board of Pharmacy for a Certified Pharmacy Technician License to practice as a pharmacy technician in Oregon.

This certificate is designed for students planning to enter the pharmacy technician field upon graduation. Often only selected credits are considered transferable to public or private baccalaureate institutions.