

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Certificate of Completion

51 credits

CERTIFICATE AS AWARDED ON TRANSCRIPT

Certificate of Completion, Pharmacy Technician

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 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 curriculum was developed using the accreditation standards of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and is tailored specifically to the students in the program. This 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. Students are required to obtain a pharmacy technician license from the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to participate in the practicum. The application process for the pharmacy technician license will require a criminal background search.

COST OF PROGRAM

In addition to standard tuition, student fees and textbooks, students should anticipate the following program costs:

- Program fee of \$150 per term (or a total of \$450 for the three-term pharmacy technician cohort)
- In some cases \$150 to \$300 for fees associated with required immunizations and tuberculosis screening
- \$45-60 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.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITE COURSES

All prerequisite courses must be passed with a "C" or better to register for the Pharmacy Technician program.

- MTH 058 Math Literacy I, MTH 065 Algebra II or higher, or placement scores resulting in MTH 095 placement (4 credits)
 - Recommended pathway (MTH 010 if needed), MTH 058, MTH 098
- WR 065/095 or minimum placement scores resulting in WR 121 placement (4 credits)
- See the CAP Center website for scores needed to place in the above courses. cocc.edu/CAP.
- Complete COCC online orientation available at cocc.edu/onlineorientation.

PROGRAM PRE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS DUE PRIOR TO FALL TERM

Documents required for entry into the Pharmacy Technician program must be submitted after students register for the program. A letter of instruction is emailed to all registered and waitlisted students at the end of Spring term with an assigned documentation due date prior to Fall term. Failure to submit the required paperwork by the assigned date will result in administrative withdrawal from the program. The following documents are required prior to entry into the Pharmacy Technician program:

- A high school diploma, a high school transcript noting successful graduation, or a GED.
- 18 years of age.
- Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better (see program prerequisites).
- Criminal history check (CHC), with vendor chosen by COCC, as a condition of acceptance into the program.
 - Students with criminal convictions noted on the DHS permanent, 10-year or 5-year review list will be disqualified from attending the Pharmacy Technician program until their criminal record has been cleared. For a list of disqualifying crimes, see arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_400/oar_407/407_007.html.
- 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 advising information on the program website at cocc.edu/pharmacy-technician.
- 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.

MINIMUM GPA OR GRADE REQUIREMENTS

To earn a certificate of completion all required courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better and students must maintain a 2.0 overall GPA or higher.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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. Students may view the priority registration schedule at cocc.edu. After successful registration into the Pharmacy Technician program, PHM courses must be taken together and sequentially. Please see the Pharmacy Technician program website cocc.edu/pharmacy-technician for more information or contact the program director and/or the CAP Center.

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

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN *(continued)*

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is available from the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and can be found at 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.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

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.

NATIONAL AND/OR STATE LEGAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE OR ENTRY INTO OCCUPATION

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.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

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

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS**SUPPORT COURSES**

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

CORE COURSES

PHM 100	Pharmacy Technician Practice I ¹	5
PHM 101	Pharmacy Technician Law and Ethics ¹	3
PHM 110	Pharmacy Calculations ¹	3
PHM 115	Retail Simulation Lab	2
PHM 120	Drug Classification and Therapeutics I ¹	5
PHM 130	Drug Classification and Therapeutics II ¹	5
PHM 140	Pharmacy Technician Practice II ¹	5
PHM 145	Institutional Simulation Lab	2
PHM 181	Pharmacy Technician Seminar ¹	2
PHM 190	Practicum I Hospital/Institution	4
PHM 191	Practicum II Retail/Community	4

FOOTNOTE

¹ Indicates online course.

