PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Do you want an in-demand career where you can take pride in working directly with patients to deliver medications and provide excellent customer service? Pharmacy technicians enjoy a rewarding career in the constantly growing and evolving field of health care and prescription medicine while maintaining a stable and straightforward work environment. As a certified pharmacy technician, you are the liaison between medical professionals, doctors, pharmacists, insurance companies and patients. You will receive and verify prescriptions and prepare patient medication.

At COCC, you will take classes that prepare you to:

- Provide medication and other health products to patients
- Mix intravenous solutions
- Count tablets and label bottles
- Receive electronic prescriptions from medical office
- Handle computer order entry of prescriptions
- Receive written prescriptions and requests for patient refill
- Verify complete and accurate prescriptions
- Stock and inventory prescription and over-the-counter medications

As part of the courses you will take during your training in our Pharmacy Technician program, you will gain experience with IV compounding. This skill set, most often used in hospitals, helps better prepare students for a variety of jobs in the field, offering graduates a competitive advantage.

COCQ Pharmacy Technician program is a three-term cohort. Combine online lectures with hands-on, weekly onsite lab practicums in order to gain a broad knowledge base that will prepare you to pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE).

Required Pre-Req Courses
- WR 065 or BA 214
- AH 105 or MTH 105
- BI 105
- AH 115

Required Program Courses
- PHM 100
- PHM 101
- PHM 110
- PHM 115
- PHM 120
- PHM 130
- PHM 140
- PHM 145
- PHM 181
- PHM 190
- PHM 191

For more information about the Pharmacy Technician Program, please contact the program director.

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or go to:
https://www.cocc.edu/programs/pharmacy-tech
Career Opportunities for Pharmacy Technicians

Have you ever wondered what opportunities exist for pharmacy technicians? Here are the various areas where they are employed:

**Chain pharmacy**

Approximately 70% of the 350,000 pharmacy technicians in the United States are employed in the retail setting. Pharmacy technicians in this setting help dispense approximately 2.5 billion prescriptions per year.

Responsibilities for chain pharmacy technicians include processing customer prescription data, filling and labeling medications, managing inventory, answering phone calls, dealing with insurance companies, and distributing medications to customers.

**Independent pharmacy**

Independent pharmacies represent approximately 40% of all community pharmacies in the United States and employ thousands of pharmacy technicians nationwide. Responsibilities are similar to those in the chain setting, but may also include compounding, filling specialty packaging, and delivering medications directly to patients.

**Hospital pharmacy**

Approximately 17% of all pharmacy technicians work in a hospital setting. Responsibilities include interpreting written prescription orders, performing pharmacy calculations, compounding medications, refilling automated medication dispensers, medication reconciliation, and delivering medications to patients within the hospital.

Becoming certified will make you more competitive to gain employment as a hospital pharmacy technician.

**Managed care**

Health insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers both employ pharmacy technicians to ensure high-quality services. Common duties include interacting with customers about offered pharmacy services, reviewing prior authorization requests, claims adjudication, and providing ongoing education and training to physician’s offices and facilities.

Less than 10% of pharmacy technicians work in the managed care setting.

**Nuclear pharmacy**

In nuclear pharmacy, technicians are trained and certified in handling and preparing radioactive medications. Roles for technicians in this setting include performing mathematical calculations, compounding, labeling, inventory management, and ensuring that radiopharmaceuticals are safely handled and transported.

Less than 1% of pharmacy technicians have the required specialized training to work in a nuclear pharmacy.

**Industry**

The pharmaceutical industry develops, produces, and markets drugs. In this setting, responsibilities may include triage and coordination of drug information requests, assisting with literature searches, writing drug information documents, and other quality assurance processes.

**Government agency**

Local, state, and federal government agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Veterans Administration, Indian Health Service, and Armed Forces all require the expertise of skilled pharmacy technicians.

In these settings, technicians can engage in a number of tasks, including receiving and reviewing prescriptions, inventory management of drug products and pharmaceutical supplies, medication replenishment in automated pharmacy dispensing systems, compounding, and dispensing medications to patients.

Other careers options for pharmacy technicians can be found in mail-order pharmacy, home infusion, poison control, and academia.