



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# Pharmacy Technician Program Info

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# Agenda



## What do pharmacy technicians do?

Characteristics of a Pharmacy Technician

Where/When Do Pharmacy Technicians Work?

Job Outlook and Salary Expectations

How do I become a Pharmacy Tech?

- SC Pharmacy Technician Registration
- National and State Certification



## Trident Tech's Pharmacy Technician Program

Accreditation

Admission Requirements

Program Tuition and Fees

What to expect?

- Program Courses
- Program Policies
- Clinical Rotations



## Contact Info



# Welcome

- ▶ Pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare location.
  - ▶ Most people within 5 miles from their home
  - ▶ Visit their pharmacy 2X more than other health care providers.
- ▶ Pharmacy Technicians
  - ▶ vital members of the healthcare team
  - ▶ first face that greets patients
- ▶ If you are...
  - ▶ interested in health care
  - ▶ prefer fast-paced environment
  - ▶ want to help people
  - ▶ detail-oriented
  - ▶ like working as a team

...working as a pharmacy technician may be for you.

# What do pharmacy technicians do?

- ▶ Connect patients to their medication
  - ▶ Speak to patients and help them get information they need
  - ▶ Interpret prescriptions and data entry
  - ▶ Bill insurance
  - ▶ Prepare, package, and label medications
  - ▶ Deliver prescriptions to patients and hospital floors
- ▶ Maintain inventory
- ▶ Administer point-of-care tests
- ▶ Assist pharmacists with immunizations and medication monitoring
- ▶ Work as a team with other pharmacy technicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare team members as well as patients and their families



See the [ASHP website](#) to look more into what Pharmacy Technicians do

# Characteristics of a Pharmacy Technician

- ▶ Enjoy talking to all kinds of people
- ▶ Treat everyone with compassion (like you were taking care of your own family member)
- ▶ Work together in a team and be responsible for your own individual work
- ▶ Keep calm and level-headed in stressful situations
- ▶ Detail oriented and accurate
- ▶ Good at math
- ▶ Physical demands required of pharmacy technicians:
  - Standing for long hours
  - Stooping, bending, reaching high places. Lifting boxes up to 50 lbs.
  - Fast-paced, busy environment while maintaining accuracy in all work





# Where do pharmacy technicians work?

- ▶ Most positions require in-person work. Some virtual work positions.

- ▶ Community Pharmacy
  - ▶ Chain
  - ▶ Grocery stores
  - ▶ Independent
- ▶ Hospitals
  - ▶ Inpatient pharmacy
  - ▶ Outpatient pharmacy
- ▶ Compounding Pharmacy
- ▶ Home Infusion Pharmacy
- ▶ Long term care Pharmacy
- ▶ Mail order Pharmacy
- ▶ Specialty Pharmacy
- ▶ Clinic Pharmacy



# When do pharmacy technicians work?



## Hours are vastly different depending on pharmacy setting

Hospitals are open 24/7 and need around the clock staffing in some areas

Retail and outpatient pharmacies are open during times convenient for patients



## Typically flexible

Part time and full time positions available

Shifts can vary from 4-8-10-12 hours

May require working on nights/ weekends/ holidays

Could require rotating shifts or on call



## Some positions with “bankers’ hours” (M-F 8-5)

Usually requires a couple of years of pharmacy technician experience

- Compounding
- Home infusion
- Long term care
- Specialty
- Clinic

# Job Outlook

- ▶ “Faster than average” (according to the [Board of Labor Statistics](#))
- ▶ 25,900 job openings nationally.
- ▶ Employers prefer CPhT certification
- ▶ S.C. Code of Law prohibits pharmacies from employing anyone who has been convicted of a felony offense relating to controlled substances.
  - ▶ Employers may require a criminal background check and routine drug testing as a condition of employment.
- ▶ Immunization status may impact employment prospects, depending on each institution's requirements.



5.6% over  
the next  
decade  
(2022-  
2032)



Demand for  
pharmacy  
services  
increasing =  
more  
responsibility  
for pharmacy  
technicians



# Salary Expectations

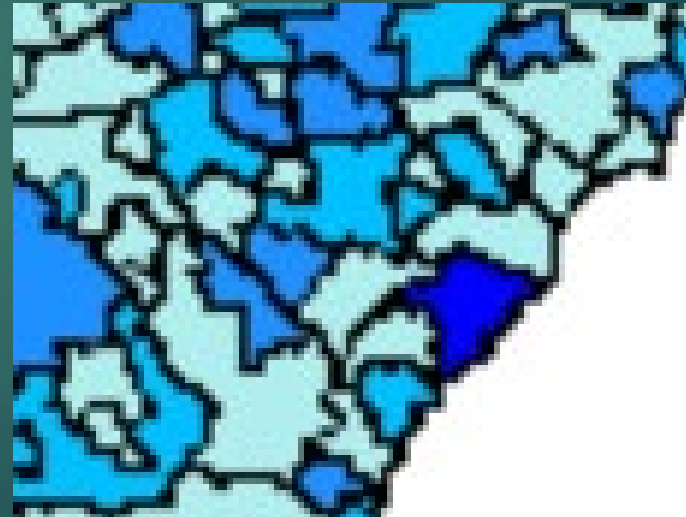
National: \$40,300

SC: \$40,100 (\$19.28/hr) Range: \$31,000-\$49,000

Charleston area:

\$43,600 (\$20.96/hr) Range: \$36,600-\$53,500

[Board of Labor Statistics \(updated May 2023\)](#)



# SC Pharmacy Technician Registration



In order to work in a pharmacy and complete clinical rotations at experiential sites as part of this program, students must first register as a pharmacy technician with the SC Board of Pharmacy before or during the first term of the program.

To become Registered as a Pharmacy Technician with the SC Board of Pharmacy, you must:

1. Complete the [Pharmacy Technician Registration Application](#) and pay the \$56 application/ registration fee.
  2. Verify lawful presence in the United States.
  3. Submit a copy of your valid Driver's License, State Issued ID, Passport or Military ID AND a copy of your social security card to SC Board of Pharmacy.
  4. Answer personal history questions pertaining to physical, mental and/or emotional conditions that could impair your ability to serve as a pharmacy technician or any criminal or civil convictions (other than a minor traffic ticket).
- Continuing education: 10 hours each year before license renewal by June 30 of each year.

# National Certification

- ▶ National certification requires passing one of the national certification exams and earns the credential of Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)
- ▶ National certification exams:
  - ▶ Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE)
  - OR
  - ▶ ExCPT (Exam for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians).
    - ▶ Exam Fee: ~\$129 (subject to change)
- ▶ Passing grade on either exam will earn the credential of Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT).
- ▶ See more details at the [PTCB website](#) or [NHA website](#).



# SC State Certification

► Achieving SC State Certification enables pharmacy technicians to perform additional higher-level pharmacy technician tasks, such as:

- Receiving prescription orders verbally via phone or voicemail
- Conducting transfers of prescription orders for non-controlled substances
- Checking another technician's work for certain types of inpatient medications
- Performing routine inspections of certain types of permitted non-dispensing facilities





# SC State Certification



## SC State Certified Pharmacy Technician Requirements

1. SC Pharmacy Technician Registration
  2. Pass a national certification exam: Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) or ExCPT (Exam for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians)
  3. Completion of a Pharmacy Technician Training Program (such as TTC's!)
  4. A minimum of 1,000 hours of experience working as a Pharmacy Technician is required before applying for State Certification.
    - ▶ A portion of those hours (at least 160) will be obtained through this training program.
    - ▶ The graduate will have to obtain additional hours outside of this program.
- ▶ Visit the [SC Board of Pharmacy website](#) for additional details on becoming a SC State Certified Pharmacy Technician.
  - ▶ Continuing education: required yearly for maintenance of licensure (regardless of whether Registered or State Certified Pharmacy Technician).
    - ▶ SC Board of Pharmacy: 10 hours per year.
    - ▶ PTCB and NHA (once CPhT): 20 hours every 2 years + additional hours in pharmacy law and patient safety
      - ▶ MUST maintain status CPhT to maintain SC State Certification

# TTC Pharmacy Technician Program

The purpose of the Pharmacy Technician Training Program at Trident Technical College is to give graduates the skills necessary to gain employment as an entry level pharmacy technician on the path to becoming a SC State Certified Pharmacy Technician. The training received will empower the graduate to confidently utilize those skills and background knowledge in a multitude of pharmacy settings.

Why should an aspiring pharmacy technician choose this program?

- Hands on learning
- Real world experience
- Quickly become prepared to be a pharmacy technician

# Program Accreditation

- ▶ American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
  - ▶ Candidate status
  - ▶ Seeking PTCB Recognition



Completion of this program =  
Eligible for National + SC State Certification

# Program Tuition

- ▶ Full Program Tuition estimate before any scholarships or other assistance applied (such as Pell Grant, Lottery Tuition assistance, LIFE, SC Workforce Industry needs scholarship, etc.). :

~ \$5,000(Tri-county residents)

SC WINS (Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship)  
ELIGIBLE (\$5,000 for tuition + books) =

NO-COST TUITION



# Program Fees (Estimated)

- Expenses are an **estimate only** and are subject to change.
- These fees are separate from program tuition.
- Some costs may not apply in all circumstances

Immunizations and Titers (some costs may be covered by insurance)	\$1140+
TB (PPD) tests	\$74-\$174
Physical exam (may be covered by insurance)	\$150
Healthcare Provider BLS CPR certification	\$70
Major Medical Insurance	\$1200
Professional Liability Insurance	\$40
SC BOP Pharmacy Technician Registration	\$56
Background check/ Drug screen	\$120
Mandatory In-services (required for clinical rotation)	\$15
Uniform (2 set scrubs and lab jacket)	\$150
National Certification Exam Fee	\$129
Professional Memberships (SCSHP, SCPhA)	\$25, \$20
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>~ \$3300</b>

## ► Total Potential Program Cost

	Program Tuition	+	Program Fees	=	Total Program Cost (max)
Before SCWINS	\$5,000	+	up to ~\$3,300	=	max ~\$8,800
After SCWINS (if eligible)	\$0	+	up to ~\$3,300	=	max ~\$3,300

# Program courses

2 semester  
program  
(8-9  
months)

2 cohorts  
per year

## Fall 1/ Spring 1

Course Number	Title
PHM 101	Introduction to Pharmacy
PHM 112	Pharmacy Math
PHM 114	Therapeutic Agents I

## Fall 2/ Spring 2

Course Number	Title
PHM 111	Applied Pharmacy Practice Lab
PHM 113	Pharmacy Technician Math
PHM 124	Therapeutic Agents II

## Spring FULL/ Summer FULL

Course Number	Title
PHM 109	Applied Pharmacy Practice
PHM 164	Pharmacy Technician Practicum II

Total Program CEU	46.8
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# Curriculum

- ▶ Pharmacology for Technicians
- ▶ Pharmacy Math
- ▶ Intro to Pharmacy –  
Foundational Pharmacy Knowledge
  - ▶ Outpatient skills focused – IN PERSON
    - ▶ Data Entry
    - ▶ Insurance Adjudication
    - ▶ Medication Packaging
    - ▶ Non-sterile Compounding
    - ▶ Inventory Management
    - ▶ Customer Service
    - ▶ Patient Care (POC, Immunizations)
- ▶ Applied Pharmacy Practice – Soft skills/  
Job Prep/ Exam Review
- ▶ Applied Pharmacy Practice Lab –  
Institutional Pharmacy Knowledge
  - ▶ Hospital skills focused – IN PERSON
    - ▶ Repackaging
    - ▶ Unit dose/ Cart fill
    - ▶ Automated Dispensing Operations
    - ▶ Hazardous and Investigational Drugs
    - ▶ Medication Reconciliation
    - ▶ Aseptic Technique / Sterile Compounding

# What to expect?

- ▶ 2 Full Semesters

- ▶ First semester:

On campus LAB  
1-2 days a week for total 6 hrs/wk  
(Scheduled between 9AM-4PM)

Must schedule time for  
class work !!!  
At least 18-20 hours per  
week.



3 Online classes:  
Intro to Pharmacy, Pharmacology,  
and Math

- ▶ Second semester:

Clinical Rotations (IN Person):  
3-5 days (20 hours) a week.

1 Online class:  
Will meet in person 2-3 times

- ▶ Test prep – national certification exam during last part of program
- ▶ Students are responsible for providing their own laptop and internet access to access online materials for courses in the PHM program.





# Clinical Rotations

- ▶ Gain Real Experience in Pharmacy
  - ▶ Put knowledge and skills learned in class to practice
  - ▶ Exposure to different areas of pharmacy
  - ▶ Required for completion of program
- 
- ▶ Minimum of 160 hours across two clinical sites
    - ▶ 20 hours per week for 4 weeks X 2



# Student Requirements for Clinicals

## Health Sciences – Student Health Record

- physical exam
- immunizations and/or titers
- TB (PPD) tests
- current Healthcare Provider BLS CPR certification
- major medical insurance
- medical professional liability coverage (\$1 million per occurrence/\$3 million per aggregate)

Criminal background check + negative drug screen – results can affect student's ability to complete the program and become employed.

S.C. Code of Law prohibits pharmacies from employing anyone who has been convicted of a felony offense relating to controlled substances.

# Admission requirements

- ▶ Pharmacy Technician Program requirements:
  1. HS diploma or GED
  2. Program Application (link can be found on the TTC Workforce Training webpage)
  3. Math proficiency
    - ▶ satisfactory Pharmacy tech math placement test score OR completion of MAT 155 Contemporary Mathematics with a minimum grade of C
  4. English proficiency
    - ▶ completion of any high school or college level English course with a minimum grade of C OR satisfactory writing sample.
  5. Information Session and quiz.
    - ▶ 100% score on the online quiz following the session

# Questions?

For more info, contact:

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