

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

{ JOB DESCRIPTION }

Assist licensed pharmacist in preparing prescribed medication for patients, price and file prescriptions, establish and maintain patient profiles, prepare insurance claim forms, and inventory medication.

{ SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- Basic knowledge of mathematics, chemistry, English, and health education
- Strong customer service and communication skills
- Experience managing inventories
- Competency in using a computer
- Qualities of being observant and organized
- Ability to perform precise, detailed work
- No prior record of drug or substance abuse

Technicians receive written prescriptions or requests for a prescription refill from patients or doctors' representatives. They must verify that the information on the prescription is complete and accurate. To prepare the prescription, the technician must retrieve, count, pour, weigh, measure, and sometimes mix the medication. Once the prescription is filled, technicians price and file the prescription. Some also clean the pharmacy equipment, help with the maintenance of equipment and supplies, and manage the cash register. In hospitals, technicians read patient charts. They record information about the medication onto the patient's profile. They are responsible for keeping a running inventory of medicines and supplies used. They may be required to lift heavy boxes or to use stepladders to retrieve supplies from high shelves.

Pharmacy technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist. A pharmacist must check every prescription before it can be given to a patient.

{ SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage
\$8.06

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
6

Employment in
1998 2008
151 174

{ TEXAS }

Avg. Wage
\$8.14

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
449

Employment in
1998 2008
9,418 11,575

{ U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998
108,690

Female **67%**
Minority **39%**

HEALTH SERVICES CAREERS



{ PREFERRED EDUCATION }

- Associate degree, diploma, or certificate from formal pharmacy technician education program

{ LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

- Certified Pharmacy Technician by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam, required in state of Texas

{ REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**-Continuing Education, Review Course for Pharmacy Technician
- **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**-Pre-Pharmacy Program
- **LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**-Pre-Pharmacy Program
- **WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**-Pre-Pharmacy Program

{ JOB SITES }

Drug/Proprietary Stores	86%
Federal Government	10%
Grocery Stores	3%

{ FOR MORE INFORMATION }

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACISTS
7272 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 657-3000, www.ashp.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAIN DRUG STORES
413 N. Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22313-1480
(703) 549-3001, www.nacds.org

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION BOARD
2215 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20037-2985,
(202) 429-7576, www.ptcb.org