

Certified Pharmacy Technician



What is the Certified Pharmacy Technician Program?

The Certified Pharmacy Technician Program consists of 33-credits of course work which prepares students to work as pharmacy technicians in retail and institutional health care settings.

Pharmacy technicians are detail-oriented people who fill a central role in accurately providing medication to patients. Students who are accepted into this program must submit to drug screening and a complete criminal background check with no record of felony or drug convictions. Students must also submit a record of complete immunizations to work in a clinical setting. The student is responsible for the cost of the background test as well as the drug screen. Pharmacy technician students must maintain a 2.5 GPA with no grades below "C" in all pharmacy technician (PHR) courses. Completion of the program will prepare students to sit for the (PTCE).

What types of jobs do pharmacy technicians perform?

Pharmacy technicians work with registered pharmacists to count or prepare medications for dispensing, maintain written and computerized patient records, prepare sterile intravenous (IV) mixtures, prepare prescrip-

tion labels, prepare insurance claims, stock and inventory medications, and completes medication reconciliation.

What do pharmacy technicians earn?

Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of pharmacy technicians in May 2016 were \$35,830 for ambulatory health care services; \$29,140 for grocery stores; \$28,700 for pharmacies and drug stores; and \$29,860 for department stores. Washington, D.C. is listed as one of the states paying the highest average salary for pharmacy technicians. Certified technicians usually earn more. Shift differentials for working evenings or weekends also increase earnings (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

What is the employment outlook for this career field?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average of all occupations.

For the local tri-state area, more than half of the retail and institutional pharmacies anticipate an increase in their staff of technicians over the next year and 86 percent of them would be more likely to hire certified pharmacy technicians at higher compensation who have been trained in an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited program. (source: www.bls.gov/ooh). Local pharmacists frequently contact the program instructor looking for qualified applicants when they have openings. Students can also use College Central to search for jobs. Find out more at www.collegecentral.com/hagerstown.

Why is HCC's Certified Pharmacy Technician Program unique?

HCC offers two pathways in the certified pharmacy technician program: a nine-credit letter of recognition or a 33-credit certificate. Courses taken as part of the pharmacy technician letter of recognition can be used to fulfill the requirements of the certificate program. The HCC certificate program provides a sequence of courses that can be completed in one year by a full-time student who enters with the prerequisites for coursework (MAT

098 and ENG 100 or equivalent placement test scores). The program includes hands-on laboratory experience in preparing and labeling prescriptions, computer order entry, compounding of medications, sterile technique and IV preparations, infection control, and safe handling of medications.

HCC is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and is one of only two accredited pharmacy technician programs in the state of Maryland.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program can be viewed at www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer_phr/51.0805-Gedt.html.

What are the program options?

Letter of Recognition

Students may first complete a nine-credit letter of recognition sequence to prepare themselves to pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam and begin entry-level employment as a pharmacy technician.

Certificate

The certificate program includes additional courses designed to prepare students for a career as a pharmacy technician and includes the workplace experience course.



Certificate

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This 33-credit program can be completed in three semesters by full-time students (more than 12 credits per semester) who meet the program's English and Mathematics requirements. Part-time students can spread the courses out over a longer period of time if they prefer. Courses require that students have completed developmental mathematics and English (MAT 098 and ENG 100) or have equivalent placement test scores.

Program Requirements

Fall Admission Cohort:

First Year Fall Semester

BIO 116	Human Anatomy & Physiology for Allied Health	4
MAP 102	Medical Terminology.....	3
PHR 101	Introduction to Pharmacy Technician	3
PHR 102	Pharmaceutical Calculation.....	3
PHR 103	Pharmacy Practice: Dispensing Non-Sterile Apps	3
TOTAL		16

First Year Spring Semester

PHR 107	Professionalism, Law and Ethics	3
PHR 110	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	5
PHR 112	Pharmacy Practice: Sterile Medication Preparation	3
PHR 113	Pharmacy Operations and Trends	3
TOTAL		14

First Year Summer Semester (7.5 weeks)

PHR 269	Pharmacy Practicum	3
TOTAL		3

Certificate Requirement	33
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Spring Admission Cohort:

First Year Spring Semester

BIO 116	Human Anatomy & Physiology for Allied Health	4
MAP 102	Medical Terminology.....	3
PHR 101	Introduction to Pharmacy Technician	3
PHR 107	Professionalism, Law and Ethics	3
PHR 113	Pharmacy Operations and Trends	3
TOTAL		16

First Year Fall Semester

PHR 102	Pharmaceutical Calculation.....	3
PHR 103	Pharmacy Practice: Dispensing Non-Sterile Apps	3
PHR 110	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	5
PHR 112	Pharmacy Practice: Sterile Medication Preparation	3
TOTAL		14

First Year Spring Semester (7.5 weeks)

PHR 269	Pharmacy Practicum	3
TOTAL		3

Certificate Requirement	33
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Letter of Recognition

Pharmacy Technician

Completion of the Letter of Recognition and passing the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination will enable many students to gain entry-level employment as a pharmacy technician. These courses can also be used to fulfill the requirements of the Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program.

Program Requirements

PHR 101	Introduction to Pharmacy Technician	3
PHR 102	Pharmaceutical Calculation.....	3
PHR 103	Pharmacy Practice: Dispensing Non-Sterile Apps	3

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Contact Information:

Dr. Christina T. Nguyen, PharmD
Instructor and Program Coordinator
Pharmacy Technician
240-500-2246
ctnguyen@hagerstowncc.edu

Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management
240-500-2238
admissions@hagerstowncc.edu

Additional Resources

Pharmacy Technician
Certification Exam (PTCE):
HCC is an approved
testing site for the PTCE.
www.ptcb.org

www.hagerstowncc.edu/pharm-tech