

Pharmacy Technology

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Short Certificate (2 semesters)

Career Cluster: Health Science

At a Glance

Listed as one of the fastest growing healthcare professions through the year 2016 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Pharmacy Technicians are skilled medical professionals who assist pharmacists with the provision of pharmaceutical care in both institutional and retail pharmacies. Duties of a pharmacy technician are varied, but include assisting pharmacists with prescription dispensing, inventory management, administrative reporting, medication compounding, and preparation of intravenous medications.

Program Description

The Pharmacy Technology program is designed to prepare students to assume positions in both institutional and retail pharmacies. The program curriculum consists of theory courses, lab activities, and supervised clinical internships. Program coursework includes pharmacology, medical terminology, pharmacy laws and regulations, and pharmaceutical calculations. Clinical internships are utilized to enable students to take the knowledge and skills they have obtained and apply them in a working pharmacy environment.

The Pharmacy Technology program is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), 7272 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 657-300, www.ashp.org. Certification as a Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) is achieved upon successful completion of the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). Additionally, pharmacy technicians are required to register with the Alabama Board of Pharmacy.

Admission Requirements

Applicants Must:

Meet all the general admission requirements of WSCC.

Possess a GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Submit a WSCC application to the Admissions Office. Applications will be accepted until June 1 for Fall admission. Applications received after June 1 will be considered on a space available basis.

Submit a program application to the Pharmacy Technology program director. Attach copies of high school transcripts or official transcripts from other institutions attended.

All information must be included for the packet to be complete. Any missing information will result in the applicant not being considered for admission.

Selection and Notification

Students will be selected based on their completion of admission requirements and program application date. All other factors being equal, GPA will be the deciding factor for admission.

The Program Director will review all applications for completion of admission requirements and will notify students accepted into the program.

Upon acceptance into the Pharmacy Technology program, the student must submit:

- a. A completed physical form certifying that the student is in good health and is able to meet clinical requirements.
- b. Evidence of Hepatitis B immunization.
- c. Proof of health insurance.
- d. A signed consent to drug testing and background screening.

The student must also contact the program director and arrange for an orientation meeting upon acceptance.

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Pharmacy Technology program are expected to comply with the Health Science program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College catalog.

Required Competencies:

Students will be required to perform competency demonstrations in the following areas:

Brand and generic drug name identification and classification

Pharmaceutical calculations

Prescription dispensing

Aseptic Technique

Preparation of penetrable medications

Upon Admission:

Students will be required to:

Submit an annual physical examination form, including proof of Hepatitis B and other vaccinations before they will be allowed into clinical facilities.

Submit proof of CPR certification before they will be allowed into clinical facilities.

Obtain accident and liability insurance (this is available through WSCC at the time of course registration).

Undergo background screening and drug testing according to Health Science Division policy.

Obtain an Alabama Pharmacy Technician Registration.

Progression

Students selected for admission to the Pharmacy Technology program must maintain a minimum grade of 75% or higher in major required courses. Failure to do so will result in the student being ineligible to progress through the program. Students who withdraw from, or are dismissed from the program must re-apply prior to reentering the program. Students may apply for reentry into the program only once.

Career Path

The Pharmacy Technology curriculum prepares students to function as healthcare professionals in both retail and institutional pharmacies. Students may be employed in chain drug stores, independent pharmacies, mail order pharmacies, hospital pharmacies and medical clinics. Other career opportunities may include employment with state healthcare agencies and prescription benefit management companies.

Median hourly earnings of pharmacy technicians in May 2010 were \$13.92, with the highest 10 percent earning more than \$19.31 per hour. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Pharmacy Technology

1st Semester

PHM 100	Introduction to Pharmacy	3
PHM 102	Pharmacology I	3
PHM 205	Computers and Billing	3
PHM 207	Institutional Pharmacy	3
PHM 210	Pharmacy Practice	<u>3</u>
	Total	15

2nd Semester

PHM 112	Pharmacology II	3
PHM 113	Drugs and Health	3
PHM 211	Clinical Practicum I	3
PHM 212	Clinical Practicum II	<u>3</u>
	Total	12

TOTAL CREDITS **27**

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at <http://www.wallacestate.edu/Programs/Health-Division/Pharmacy-Technology>