

Pharmacy Technician

Nature of the Profession

Pharmacy technicians work under the direct supervision of a registered pharmacist and help prepare prescriptions and provide other health-care products. Technicians perform routine tasks such as locating medications, measuring quantities, packaging containers and preparing labels. In addition, they take care of many of the day-to-day operations of a pharmacy such as receiving and verifying prescriptions, answering phones, taking refill requests, receiving and storing supplies, verifying stock, and entering data in a computer to maintain inventory or patient records.

APTITUDES

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Close attention to detail
- Ability to perform repetitive tasks accurately
- Ability to work with a variety of people and a desire to help others
- Strong work-ethic and good critical-thinking skills
- Good math skills

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or GED. Pharmacy technicians must be at least 18 years old. Each pharmacy is responsible for on-the-job training according to their Pharmacy Technician Manual approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Southeast Community College started a diploma program during the summer of 2007. It is a one-year (or four quarter) program. Students complete course work in classes and laboratories as well as gaining hands-on training working in pharmacies in hospitals, long term care facilities, and retail pharmacies.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Southeast Community College – Beatrice (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

In Nebraska, pharmacy technicians are required to register with the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services, Public Health Licensure Unit. There is no certification or licensure required at this time.

A technician may opt to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) by passing the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination given by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National Pharmacy Technician Association

Web Address: www.pharmacytechnician.org

American Association of Pharmacy Technicians

Web Address: www.pharmacytechnician.com