



# Pharmacy Technician

**Course Overview:** Focuses on careers in planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

**Career Goal (O\*NET Code):** (29-2052) - Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists dispense prescription medication. They work in retail pharmacies and hospitals.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

## EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Middle School	8th	<b>HS Courses:</b>	(Local districts may list high school credit courses here)		<p><b>Curricular Experiences: ***</b> Health Occupations Students of America</p> <p><b>Career Learning Experiences:</b> Career Preparation Internship Job Shadowing Clinical Rotations Certifications Clinical Volunteer Work (local hospitals &amp; medical facilities)</p> <p><b>Service Learning Experiences:</b> Boy/Girl Scouts Campus Service Organizations Community Service Volunteer Medical Mission Trips Peer Mentoring / Peer Tutoring Special Olympics</p>	<p><b>Extracurricular Experiences:***</b> Language Immersion Programs National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine School Newspaper Student Council UIL Academic Competitions Yearbook</p>		
	High School	9th	<b>Courses*:</b>	English I Algebra I or Geometry Biology			World Geography Foreign Language I Physical Education or Athletics	<p><b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Principles of Health Science</p>
10th			<b>Courses:</b>	English II Geometry or Algebra II Chemistry			World History Foreign Language II Elective	
		11th	<b>Core Courses:</b>	English III Algebra II or Pre-Calculus Physics			United States History Foreign Language III ** Professional Communications or Speech	<p><b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Health Science</p>
12th			<b>Core Courses:</b>	English IV Pre-Calculus or Calculus 4th Science			Government/Economics Elective Elective	
				<b>Career-Related Electives:</b>			Practicum in Health Science	<p align="center"><b>COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES -- High School</b></p> <p>Students should take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, Advanced Technical Credit (ATC), or locally articulated courses (Tech Prep), if possible. List those courses that count for college credit on your campus.</p>
Postsecondary		<p><b>How to Become a Pharmacy Technician</b> Many pharmacy technicians learn how to perform their duties through on-the-job training. Others attend postsecondary education programs in pharmacy technology at vocational schools or community colleges, which award certificates. Most states regulate pharmacy technicians in some way.</p>					<p><b>Carrer Options</b> (Sample of reported job titles)</p>	<p><b>Professional Associations:</b> • National Pharmacy Technician Association</p>
	<p>Texas Southmost College      South Texas College      Texas State Technical College</p>						<p>• Pharmacy Technician      • IV Certified Pharmacy Technician • Certified Pharmacy Technician      • Pharmaceutical Care Associate (CPhT)</p>	
	<p>Pharmacy Technology (CERT) Pharmacy Technology (AAS)</p>							
	<p>University of Texas at Brownsville      University of Texas - Pan American</p>							
	<p> </p>							
<p> </p>								

\* Students must meet local & state high school graduation requirements. \*\* Required course for the Distinguished Graduation Plan (in addition to other measures). \*\*\* Based on campus availability. Students may select other elective courses for personal enrichment purposes.

This plan of study serves as a guide, along with other career planning materials, for pursuing a career path and is based on the most recent information as of 2009. All plans meet high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.



## Pharmacy Technicians

TEA Industry Cluster	Health Science
SOC Code	29-2052
Identified by	JFF Software
Projected Growth (2018)	36%
BISD Magnet School Available	Yes

Source: Demand Occupations by Cluster, updated June 27, 2012

### Description

#### What Pharmacy Technicians Do

Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists dispense prescription medication. They work in retail pharmacies and hospitals.

#### Duties

Pharmacy technicians typically do the following:

- Take from customers or health professionals the information needed to fill a prescription
- Count tablets and measure amounts of other medication for prescriptions
- Compound or mix medications, such as preparing ointments
- Package and label prescriptions
- Accept payment for prescriptions and process insurance claims
- Do routine pharmacy tasks, such as answering phone calls from customers

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of pharmacists, who must review all prescriptions before they are given to patients. If a customer's question is about the medication or health matters, the pharmacy technician arranges for the customer to speak with the pharmacist.

Pharmacy technicians working in hospitals and other medical facilities prepare a greater variety of medications, such as intravenous medications. They may make rounds in the hospital, giving medications to patients

### Training Opportunities Linked to Those Jobs (Degree Types and Colleges/Universities)

#### How to Become a Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacy technicians spend much of their time interacting with customers.

Becoming a pharmacy technician usually requires earning a high school diploma or the equivalent. Other requirements vary by state, with some states requiring passing an exam or completing a formal training program.

#### Education and Training

Many pharmacy technicians learn how to perform their duties through on-the-job training. Others attend postsecondary education programs in pharmacy technology at vocational schools or community colleges, which award certificates. These programs typically last 1 year or less and cover a variety of subjects, such as arithmetic used in pharmacies, recordkeeping, ways of dispensing medications, and pharmacy law and ethics. Technicians also learn the names, actions,

uses, and doses of medications. Many training programs include internships, in which students get hands-on experience in a pharmacy.

**Licenses and Certification**

Most states regulate pharmacy technicians in some way. Consult your state’s Board of Pharmacy for its particular regulations. Requirements for pharmacy technicians typically include some or all of the following:

- High school diploma or GED
- Criminal background check
- Formal training program
- Exam
- Fees
- Continuing education

Some states and employers require pharmacy technicians to have certification. Even where it is not required, certification may make it easier to get a job. Many employers will pay for their pharmacy technicians to take the certification exam.

Two organizations offer certification: The [Pharmacy Technician Certification Board](#) (PTCB) and the [National Healthcareer Association](#) (NHA).

**Important Qualities**

**Customer service skills.** Pharmacy technicians spend much of their time interacting with customers, so being helpful and polite are required of pharmacy technicians in a retail setting.

**Detail oriented.** Serious health problems can result from mistakes in filling prescriptions. Although the pharmacist is responsible for ensuring the safety of all medications dispensed, pharmacy technicians should be detail oriented so complications are avoided.

**Organizational skills.** Working as a pharmacy technician involves balancing a variety of responsibilities. Pharmacy technicians need good organizational skills to complete the work delegated by pharmacists while satisfying customers or patients.

Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College	The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American
	<a href="#">Pharmacy Technicology (CERT)</a>			
	<a href="#">Pharmacy Technology (AAS)</a>			

## Local Employers

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Employer	City	Employer	City
<a href="#">Affirmed Medical &amp; Safety</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Eye Center Optical</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Autrey Pharmacy</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Eye Masters</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Av Lopez Inc</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Eyear 1 Hour Optical Inc</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Brownsville Surgical Hospital</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen Medical Ctr</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Cantu Westside Pharmacy</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">H-E-B Foods</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>

## Career Options (Specific Job Types)

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### Sample of reported job titles:

- Pharmacy Technician
- Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)
- IV Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Pharmaceutical Care Associate

## Salary Ranges

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### Wages for Pharmacy Technicians

Location	Pay Period	2011				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$9.76	\$11.51	\$13.91	\$17.03	\$20.13
	Yearly	\$20,300	\$23,900	\$28,900	\$35,400	\$41,900
Texas	Hourly	\$10.70	\$12.53	\$14.66	\$17.15	\$18.86
	Yearly	\$22,300	\$26,100	\$30,500	\$35,700	\$39,200
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX MSA	Hourly	\$10.47	\$12.11	\$14.22	\$16.71	\$18.16
	Yearly	\$21,800	\$25,200	\$29,600	\$34,800	\$37,800
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	Hourly	\$8.65	\$11.00	\$13.82	\$16.38	\$17.87
	Yearly	\$18,000	\$22,900	\$28,700	\$34,100	\$37,200

## Professional Associations Linked to the Careers

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For information on becoming a pharmacy technician, visit

[National Pharmacy Technician Association](#)

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## Sources

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The information provided in this document was collected from the following sources:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)
- O\*NET OnLine (<http://www.onetonline.org/>)
- Texas CARES (<http://www.texascaresonline.com/>)
- CareerOneStop (<http://www.careeronestop.org/>)