

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN



CLASS REQUIREMENTS

A high school diploma or GED is required to sit for the PTCB exam

Know your Social Security # for background check and testing

Ability to tolerate walking and standing for extended periods of time

Ability to lift and carry significant weight

Devote 10-12 hours per week to studying and homework outside of class time

Maturity to understand and be comfortable with sensitive personal information

Meet attendance, homework and test score requirements to receive a certificate of completion



PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Career training includes 50 hours of hands-on instruction and an optional 80-hour clinical externship with a local pharmacy. Pharmacy Technicians work under the direction of a Pharmacist. Their main responsibility is filling prescriptions according to doctors' orders.

PREPARING FOR A HEALTHCARE PROFESSION

- Complete coursework or have working knowledge of medical terminology and human anatomy and physiology
- Read, write, and understand English at a 10th grade reading level
- Proficiency in performing complex math processes involving equations, story problems, and multiplying and dividing percentages and fractions
- Basic computer and keyboard skills, email address, ability to navigate the internet
- Ability to pass a background check
- Reliable transportation to class
- Level of maturity that demonstrates compassion, empathy and responsibility
- Ability to professionally communicate and interact with other healthcare professionals, co-workers, peers, instructors and customers
- Detail-oriented

CLASS CONTENT

This comprehensive 50-hour course prepares students to work as a Pharmacy Technician and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's PTCB exam. Course content includes medical terminology specific to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions, and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control, and billing and reimbursement. The Pharmacy Technician Certification program includes a graded final exam to help prepare students for the PTCB exam.

CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP

Upon successful completion of this program, you will be eligible to participate in an 80-hour clinical externship with a local retail pharmacy. You may be asked to submit to a thorough background check and drug screening and meet other requirements.

IN THIS CLASS YOU WILL LEARN

- Role of the Pharmacy Technician
- Pharmacy history/discussion of various practice settings and the technician certification process
- “Evolution of Pharmacy”
- Review of hospital pharmacy setting, retail practice, regulatory agencies involved with a pharmacy practice, long-term care practice setting, mail order pharmacy, and home care pharmacy practice
- Pharmacy measures, Roman numerals, and abbreviations
- Review of generic drugs, basic biopharmaceuticals, dosage forms, and patient profiles
- Prescription label requirements, order transcription, ordering and inventory control, drug pricing, and third party reimbursement
- All major classes of drugs including top brand names, generic drugs, and top 200 drugs
- The metric system
- Apothecaries’ and avoirdupois systems of measurement
- Children’s doses
- Formularies, unit dose systems, emergency and crash carts, house supplies, automatic stop orders, and calculating number of doses required
- Allegation method, math review
- Basics of IV solutions, calculating 24 hour supply of IV solutions, percentages, and electrolytes preparations
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), demonstration of TPN admixture, hands-on practice of IV admixture, and parenteral medication preparation
- Aseptic technique and handling of sterile products including antineoplastic agent considerations

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED COSTS YOU WILL INCUR

PTCB exam is \$130



TESTING CERTIFICATION

Within one year of working as a Pharmacy Technician in Iowa you must pass the PTCB exam

IOWA VALLEY CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERS

- Convenient locations
- Instructors with expert knowledge and experience in their fields
- Short-term career training programs that provide quick access to the work world
- Small class sizes allowing for more one-to-one interaction between students and instructors

Additional information and course schedules can be found at <https://ce.iavalley.edu/workforce-education/health>



Updated December 2019

