Pharmacy Technician

Mode of Delivery	**Residential**
Credential Awarded	**Diploma**
Contact Hours	**780**
Program Quarter Credits	**46**
Instructional Weeks	**36.00**
Total Clock Hours	**Including Out-of-Class Work Hours: 1,025**

Objective

In today's healthcare field, the role of the pharmacist has been expanded to provide not only patient care and education but also advice to health care providers. As a result, the demand for formally educated pharmacy technicians has also increased significantly, and the role of the pharmacy technician has evolved from a simple customer service role to one of knowledge and responsibility. The objective of the Pharmacy Technician program is to train and develop qualified pharmacy technicians who value pharmacy standards and competently assist the pharmacist in direct patient care.

Description

The Pharmacy Technician diploma program provides students with a solid foundation of pharmacy fundamentals and terminology needed for graduates to be successful as an entry-level technician. Students of this program will get hands-on practice in multiple pharmacy settings such as hospital, retail, compounding, mail-order, and long-term care. Topics such as professionalism, state and federal laws, and ethical issues are covered.

Externship

An externship course is included in this program to provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life situations in a pharmacy setting. Students are required to complete the required externship hours and other related learning activities prior to graduation. Students are not paid for work performed at the externship site.

Credentialing Exams

Students in their final quarter are eligible to take National Healthcareer Association's (NHA) exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (EXCPT).

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program are prepared to seek entry-level employment in positions such as Pharmacy Technician and Pharmaceutical Care Associate. Upon successful passing of certification exams and where applicable, graduates could also seek employment opportunities such as Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPHT) and IV Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Plan of Study

Course Code	Name	Clock Hours	Credits	Quarter Credits
AHP101	Introduction to Health Professions	60	0	4

AHP105	Medical Terminology	60	0	4
AHP106	Medical Anatomy and Physiology	60	0	4
PHT110	Fundamentals of Pharmacy	60	0	4
PHT115	Mathematics for Pharmacy Technicians	60	0	4
PHT120	Drug Classification Systems	60	0	4
PHT125	Pharmacy Practice and Principles	60	0	4
PHT130	Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians	60	0	4
PHT135	Intravenous Admixtures and Aseptic Compounding	60	0	4
PHT140	Certification Preparation and Career Development	60	0	4
PHT190	Externship	180	0	6

Schedule

Morning: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday

Required externship hours may be scheduled outside of typical class sessions.
Externship hours will be available during typical office hours.
Hours are subject to change.

Course Descriptions

AHP101 : Introduction to Health Professions

In this course students will gain an overview of health professions and learn the basics of medical terminology, life support, and infection control. Students will also learn directives and guidelines set forth by government agencies for healthcare facilities and professionals. To help students transition successfully into college environment, this course also explores learning strategies such as reading and critical thinking, test-taking, and using computer technology for resources and class assignments.

Clock Hours	**60**
Lab Hours	**40**
Lecture Hours	**20**
Quarter Credits	**4**
Prerequisites	**None**

AHP105 : Medical Terminology

This course will introduce students to the terminology associated with medical language. To function effectively in the health professions, students must understand The Anatomy of Word Construction, including prefixes, suffixes, root words and medical abbreviations. Through laboratory assignments, terminology relative to the body systems is presented to help the student understand medical terminology. In addition to studying the medical terminology, the course briefly covers disease processes and treatment modalities such as psychiatry, oncology, radiology and nuclear medicine. This introductory course provides a basis for a more in-depth study of human anatomy and physiology.

Clock Hours	**60**

Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

AHP106 : Medical Anatomy and Physiology

Students are introduced to anatomical structures and physiological function of the human body. This course defines the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, lymphatic, and reproductive systems. Practical laboratory experiences included in the course provide a survey of basic anatomy and physiology which is the foundation for a career in health professions.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

PHT110 : Fundamentals of Pharmacy

Beginning with a brief review of the history of medicines and pharmacy practices, students cover the qualifications, operational guidelines, and job duties of a pharmacy technician. An outline of pharmacy practice including office procedures and effective customer service will prepare the student for the technicians' role. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to discuss the purpose of the pharmacy department; identify the duties and responsibilities of a pharmacy technician; explain the importance of utilizing pharmacy resources and summarize the importance of environmental safety standards, pharmacy safety, and personal safety and hygiene.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

PHT115 : Mathematics for Pharmacy Technicians

Students learn and apply mathematical processes commonly encountered in the course of duty as a pharmacy technician, including problems encountered in the preparation and distribution of pharmaceutical products. Topics include mathematical processes specific to prescription preparation and the business of pharmacy practice. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to solve mathematics problems relating specifically to pharmacy practice.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

PHT120 : Drug Classification Systems

In this course students study therapeutic agents, properties, actions, and effects on the human body and their role in the management of disease, specifically in the management of pharmacy medication therapy. Drug dosages, therapeutic properties, side effects, interactions, toxicities, incompatibilities, over-the-counter (OTC) medications and dietary supplements will be discussed with their possible interactions with prescription, restricted and investigational drugs. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to review patient prescription and medication orders/profiles for safety and accuracy while assisting the pharmacist.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

PHT125 : Pharmacy Practice and Principles

Students continue the study of therapeutic agents, properties, actions, and effects on the human body and their role in the management of disease, specifically in the management of pharmacy medication therapy as practiced in a retail setting. Applying mathematical processes commonly encountered in the course of duty as a pharmacy technician will bridge the concepts between preparation and distribution of pharmaceutical products and prescription preparation. Office equipment, reimbursement methodologies and the business of pharmacy practice is reinforced. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to define various disease processes, patterns, and pathogenic organisms.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	None

PHT130 : Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technicians

This course provides students with an understanding of the history of medicine and pharmacy and the general aspects of pharmacology with an emphasis on the understanding of drug actions, classifications, and formularies. Commonly prescribed drugs will also be covered. Upon completion of the course students will be able to prepare prescriptions and effectively work as an entry-level member of the pharmacy staff.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	PHT110

PHT135 : Intravenous Admixtures and Aseptic Compounding

This course teaches pharmacy technician students entry-level skills performed in institutional pharmacy settings. The main objective is to provide the students with a practical experience in the duties performed by a pharmacy technician in an institutional pharmacy setting. In this hands-on course, topics include: information sources, reviewing and processing prescriptions, application of rules and regulations, institutional pharmacy equipment, sterile compounding, intravenous products and aseptic technique. Chemotherapy and Quality Control and Assurance are additional subject areas that are introduced and reviewed.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	PHT110

PHT140 : Certification Preparation and Career Development

Students will prepare for the national certification through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam. A review of drug names, drug classifications, interactions, side effects, and dosages, pharmaceutical calculations, extemporaneous compounding, prescription/medical order interpretation and preparation; and the application of Federal law concepts to the tasks and duties of pharmacists and technicians in the practice of pharmacy.

Clock Hours	60
Lab Hours	40
Lecture Hours	20
Quarter Credits	4
Prerequisites	PHT110

PHT190 : Externship

This course allows the student to apply what they have learned in the program curriculum to practical use in a healthcare facility under the direct supervision of a preceptor on the site. Through the externship experience, the student gains first-hand knowledge of the workplace and perform the assigned duties to meet the expectations in a professional setting. Students are expected to adapt to the work environment and reflect regularly on their learning and observations. The externship work performed, is not to be paid.

Clock Hours	180
Externship Hours	180
Quarter Credits	6
Prerequisites	All program courses