

Pharmacy Technician Training and Test Prep Program



Pharmacy technicians work in pharmacies under the direction of a pharmacist. Their main responsibility is filling prescriptions according to doctors' orders. This generally includes retrieving drugs in the correct form, measuring the dosage, and producing a prescription label. Pharmacy technicians work with drugs to be administered orally and topically, and may be involved in the admixture of drugs for intravenous use, depending upon the practice setting.

Employment Prospects

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations.

SDSU's Pharmacy Technician Training and Test Prep Program

This comprehensive 59.5-hour program prepares students to work as a pharmacy technician in a wide variety of settings. Course content, delivered through classroom lecture and hands-on labs, includes pharmacy medical terminology, history of pharmacy, pharmacy practice in multiple environments, calculations and measurements, reading and interpreting prescriptions, defining drugs by generic and brand names, dispensing of prescriptions, and inventory control. The last two class sessions focus solely on reviewing the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board study guide and taking a practice exam. See the FAQs online for details. The program includes an 80-hour clinical externship at a local health care service provider for students who qualify.

For more information, email healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu or call (619) 594-0845.

SDSU Research Foundation Program

Prerequisites

- A high school diploma or GED
- The ability to read, write, and comprehend English
- Basic arithmetic skills: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

Key Areas Covered

- Checking inventories and ordering supplies
- Receiving and checking in supplies
- Assisting customers
- Keeping pharmacy work areas clean
- Completing insurance forms
- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's PTCE test prep

Tuition and Fees

The total program fee is **\$1,599** and includes textbooks and parking. This amount must be paid in full at the time of registration. Payment plans are not available. [Financial Aid Options](#) are listed on our website. *Note: All course offerings and prices are subject to change.*

Schedule

The Pharmacy Technician Training and Test Prep program is offered in spring, summer, and fall.

Pharmacy Technician Training and Test Prep Program

Course Topics

- Role of the pharmacy technician and the evolution of pharmacy
- History of various practice settings and the technician certification process
- Recruiting by pharmacy specialty
- Review of pharmacy settings: hospital, retail, mail-order, long-term care practice, home-care practice, and regulatory agencies
- Pharmacy measures, Roman numerals, abbreviations
- Review of generic drugs, basic biopharmaceuticals, dosage forms, patient profiles
- Prescription label requirements, order transcription, ordering and inventory control, drug pricing, third-party reimbursement
- Formularies, unit dose systems, emergency and crash carts, house supplies, automatic stop orders, dose calculation
- All major classes of drugs including top brand names and generic drugs
- Aseptic technique, handling of sterile products including antineoplastic agent considerations
- Basics of IV solutions, calculating 24-hour supply, percentages, and electrolytes preparations
- The metric system; children's doses and allegation method, math review
- Apothecaries and avoirdupois systems of measurement
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), demonstration of TPN admixture, hands-on practice of IV admixture and parenteral medication preparation

Optional Externship

Students who qualify for the externship will be required to submit the following, at their own cost:

1. Immunization record including MMR, TDAP, Varicella, Hep B (Any gaps must be addressed.)
2. Tuberculosis (PPD) test results dated within the last 12 months
3. Negative 9-panel drug-screen results
4. Live Scan background check

Please note: These items are NOT due upon registration. They are due at the end of the class.

For details about registration, documentation of course completion, the letter of completion, certificate of completion, certification, and frequently asked questions, please see the FAQs online at neverstoplearning.net/healthcareFAQs.

For additional information or to ask questions not answered here, please email healthcare.ces@sdsu.edu or call **(619) 594-0845**.

SDSU Research Foundation Program