

# What Can I Do with a Major in **PHARMACY TECHNICIAN?**

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According to the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board, Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists in dispensing medications and are accountable to the supervising pharmacist who is legally responsible for the care and safety of patients served by the pharmacy. Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists prepare prescription medications, provide customer service, and perform administrative duties within a variety of practice settings. They are generally responsible for receiving prescription requests, counting tablets, labeling bottles, maintaining patient profiles, preparing insurance claim forms, and performing administrative functions such as answering phones, stocking shelves, and operating cash registers.

## **Typical Coursework**

Chemistry for Pharmacy  
Computer Applications in Pharmacy  
Drug Information Research  
First Aid and CPR  
Intermediate Algebra  
Medical Terminology  
Nonprescription Drugs and Devices  
Oral Communication

Pharmaceutical Compounding  
Pharmacy Anatomy and Physiology  
Pharmacy Law and Ethics  
Pharmacy Math and Dosage Calculations  
Pharmacy Technician Fundamentals  
Pharmacology  
Survey of Pharmacy

## **Related Major Skills**

- Listen to others, understand, and ask questions.
- Read and understand written information.
- Express ideas clearly when speaking or writing.
- Understand new information or materials by studying and working with them.
- Develop rules or follow guidelines for arranging items.
- Use reasoning to discover answers to problems.
- Analyze ideas and use logic to determine their strengths and weaknesses.
- Combine several pieces of information and draw conclusions.
- Concentrate and not be distracted while performing a task.
- Identify problems and review information. Develop, review, and apply solutions.
- Use math skills to solve problems.
- Manage the time of self and others.
- Check how well one is learning or doing something.
- Look for ways to help people.
- Teach others how to do something using several methods.
- Be aware of others' reactions and change behavior in relation to them.
- Quickly and accurately compare letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns.
- Identify a pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in distracting material.

## **Who Hires for this Occupation?**

Pharmacy technicians work in pharmacies, including those found in grocery and drug stores, and in hospitals. Most work full time, but many work part time.

## **Professional Association Links**

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB), <http://www.ptcb.org/>

Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, <http://www.phcybrd.state.mn.us/>

Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians, <http://www.nationaltechexam.org>

## **For More Information**

Contact ARCC Career Counseling: (763) 433-1240 (CR campus), (763) 433-1840 (Cambridge campus) or stop by the campus Information Desk

*Information adapted from:* Minnesota Career Information System <https://mncis.intocareers.org>,  
Career Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington <http://uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html>  
Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>