



Texarkana College Community Education Allied Health Programs

Pharmacy Technician Program w/Clinical Externship

This comprehensive 105-hour program prepares students to work as a pharmacy technician in retail, hospital, and other pharmacy settings. Students gain the knowledge and hands-on skills needed to safely assist pharmacists and to sit for national pharmacy technician certification exams. Instruction includes classroom learning and hands-on labs covering pharmacy fundamentals, medication preparation, dosage calculations, inventory control, and sterile compounding.

Program Schedule

- Dates & Times: **January 11, 2026 – April 26, 2027**
- Evenings: **Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM**
- Location: Health Sciences Building, Room 149



Program Details

- Length: 16 weeks
- Contact Hours: 105 classroom hours + 80-hour clinical externship
- Tuition: \$1,785 (textbooks included)
- Certification Exam Fee: \$129 (paid separately)
- Payment plans available (first payment \$446.25 + \$30 processing fee)
- Not eligible for FAFSA (non-credit program)

Registration

- Register in person at the Community Education Center in the Nelson Administration Building
- Online registration not available
- Deadline to register or drop: **Friday January 8, 2027 by 3:00 PM**

Refund Policy

100% refund available if dropped by deadline (excluding \$30 payment plan fee).

What You Will Learn

- Pharmacy medical terminology and history
- Reading and interpreting prescriptions
- Pharmacy calculations and dosage conversions
- Top 200 Drugs
- Dispensing prescriptions and labeling
- Inventory control and billing
- Sterile compounding and aseptic technique
- Total Parenteral Nutrition basics

Career Overview

Pharmacy Technicians work under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist and assist with preparing and dispensing medications, managing inventory, assisting customers, and processing insurance documentation.

Pharmacy Technicians work with drugs to be administered orally, topically, for the eye, nose, etc. Depending upon the practice setting, a Pharmacy Technician is also involved in the admixture of drugs for intravenous use.

Pharmacy Technicians – Employment & Education

Pharmacy Technicians may work in retail pharmacies, mail order pharmacies, home infusion pharmacies, long-term care facilities, hospitals, clinics, pharmacy benefit managers, and large industrial complexes. The demand for Pharmacy Technicians continues to grow and demand is expected to increase substantially.

Educational Requirements

Students should have taken math and science in high school. A high school diploma or GED is required to sit for the PTCB exam.

PTCB Detailed Course Information

- Role of pharmacy technicians.
- Pharmacy history/discussion of various practice set processes and the technician certification process.
- Recruiting by pharmacy specialty.
- The Evolution of Pharmacy.
- Review of hospital pharmacy, retail practice, regulatory agencies, long-term care, mail order, and home care pharmacy practice settings.
- Pharmacy measures, Roman numerals, and abbreviations.
- Generic and brand drugs, biopharmaceuticals, dosage forms, and patient profiles.
- Prescription labeling, order transcription, inventory control, pricing, and reimbursement.
- Formularies, unit dose systems, emergency carts, and dose calculations.
- All major classes of drugs including top brand and generic drugs.
- Aseptic technique and sterile product handling.
- IV solutions, calculations, and electrolytes.
- Metric, apothecaries', and avoirdupois systems.
- Children's doses and allegation method.
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) admixture and IV compounding practice.

Certification Opportunities

- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB – CPhT)
- National Healthcareer Association (NHA – ExCPT)

Candidates must complete a PTCB-Recognized Education/Training Program or equivalent work experience to be eligible for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). Texarkana College is currently listed as an approved site by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

Students may also sit for the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) ExCPT Certification exam, which is recognized by all 50 state boards of pharmacy requiring certification.

Clinical Externship

This program includes an 80-hour clinical externship. Students must complete all coursework and meet background check, drug screening, immunization, physical exam, and trainee license requirements.

Checklist for Pharmacy Technician Externship Requirements

- ☐ Purchase Liability Insurance through Texarkana College Business Office
- ☐ High School Diploma or GED equivalent (Must be 18 years of age)
- ☐ Physical Exam (Texarkana College Health Occupation form)
- ☐ Proof of required immunizations (Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella, Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis)
- ☐ Negative TB skin test or negative chest X-ray within six months
- ☐ Current drug screen (DO NOT COMPLETE until course has ended)
- ☐ Training Technician License application (Texas or Arkansas, as applicable)
- ☐ Fingerprinting completed
- ☐ Clinical Externship Medical/Documentation Authorization Release Form
- ☐ Resume submitted
- ☐ Blue scrubs (Texarkana College royal blue)
- ☐ Student ID Badge obtained
- ☐ Certification Exam scheduled and fee paid

Internet Access Requirement

All students must have access to the internet during the course for communication purposes. Texarkana College utilizes Microsoft Teams and other online platforms to share course materials, provide updates, and facilitate communication between instructors and students. Reliable internet access is essential for successful participation in the program. Students are welcome to use the Texarkana College Academic Commons Wi-Fi to meet this requirement.

Job Placement Disclaimer

Texarkana College Community Education Allied Health Programs are designed to provide training and preparation for industry certification and career advancement. Texarkana College Community Education is not a job placement agency. However, through our partnership, students may receive additional support such as certification preparation and, when applicable, externship opportunities to gain real-world experience. While these experiences may enhance employment opportunities, job placement is not guaranteed, and all hiring decisions are made by employers.

Contact Us

For questions regarding enrollment, financial assistance, or course information, please contact Nancy Lambert at 903-823-3382 or nancy.lambert@texarkanacollege.edu.

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