

Pharmacy Technician, AAS

Academic Year 2024-2025

Program Description:

As pharmacies expand patient care services, the role of and need for pharmacy technicians will also expand. Pharmacy Technicians are highly skilled individuals who play a critical role in providing optimal patient care in medication management. They assist Pharmacists with day-to-day operations so that Pharmacists can devote additional time to provide high level care to patients in a vast array of patient care settings.

Pharmacy technicians who work in retail or mail-order pharmacies have varying responsibilities, depending on State rules and regulations.

In hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory care clinics, specialty pharmacy, nuclear pharmacy and compounding pharmacies, technicians have added responsibilities. They interpret patient charts, complete prior authorizations, obtain financial assistance, and medication reconciliation.

With the appropriate amount of training and experience, pharmacy technicians may be promoted to supervisory roles, may seek specialization (e.g. oncology, nuclear pharmacy), or may pursue further education and training to become a pharmacist. Some technicians gain specialized skills in sterile products admixture, pharmacy automation, and health information systems.

The A.A.S. Pharmacy Technician Degree includes a total of 61 credit hours, of which 30 credit hours are Pharmacy Technician specific courses. Successful completion of the PHT program will include a clinical internship at an affiliated health-care and retail facility. Many states required licensure in order to perform pharmacy technician work. The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy currently requires licensure of all pharmacy technicians. Upon completion of the PHT program, graduates will be eligible to sit for the national board examination. For more information about West Virginia requirements and the national certification exam please visit, www.wvbop.com and www.ptcb.org. Currently, the PTCE pass rate for program graduates is 42%.

Career Outlook:

For the most current information please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics “Occupational Outlook Handbook” found at www.bls.gov/ooh/.

Program Outcomes: See page 3

Admission Requirements:

1. Completion of Pharmacy Technician admission packet, which may be found in the Allied Health Division.
2. Applicants must complete all general education and prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or better, and must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
3. Proof of medical insurance coverage is required for internship.
4. Prior to externship, students must submit proof of Tuberculosis testing and Hepatitis B vaccination, or any additional vaccines required by the site.
5. Prior to externship, students must pass a drug screen and background check.
6. The PHT program is a limited enrollment program. Program admission for the upcoming fall semester will be granted beginning in June.
7. Convicted felons or Misdemeanor Drug Charges are not eligible for this program.

Additional Requirements:

- In order to graduate from the A.A.S. PHT program, students must maintain a minimum grade of “C” or better in all PHT courses. They will be allowed to repeat the course one time before dismissal from the program.
- The cost of tuberculosis testing, vaccinations, and registration with the Board of Pharmacy are the responsibility of the student.
- Students are responsible for room and board, as well as transportation during clinical internship.
- Prior to the end of the first semester, students must be registered as a pharmacy technician trainee in WV, KY, and OH.

Contact Information:

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Mountwest Community & Technical College

02/20/2024

Academic Year 2024-2025

Pharmacy Technician-Major Code CP70

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Name:						ID Number 942-	
Educational Counselor:							
Faculty Advisor:							
COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	SEM	HRS	GR	SUBSTITUTE/REPEAT CRS	SEM	CR
PHT 203	Pharmacy Law		3				
PHT 204	Community/Retail Pharmacy		3				
PHT 206	Pharmacy Calculations		3				
PHT 216	Pharmacology for PHT I		3				
MAT 120	Applied Professional Math ⁸		3				
			15				
PHT 205	Institutional/Hospital Pharmacy		3				
PHT 208	Intro to Sterile Products		3				
PHT 255	Pharmacy Technician Seminar		3				
PHT 290	Community/Retail Exp. Training		3				
ENL 131	Business and Technical Writing ⁷		3				
			15				
BIOL 257	Intro Anatomy & Physiology		3				
EME 101	CPR/First Aid		1				
PHT 260	Community/Retail Pharmacy Lab ³		3				
PHT 265	Sterile Products ⁴		2				
PHT 270	Institutional/Hospital Pharmacy Lab ⁵		3				
PSYC 215	Lifespan Psychology		3				
			15				
AH 205	Principles of Disease ¹		3				
COM 125	Interpersonal Communication		3				
PHT 226	Pharmacology for PHT II ²		3				
PHT 240	Point of Care		3				
PHT 291	Institutional/Hospital Exp. Training ⁶		3				
			15				
Hours Required for Graduation: 60							

¹ AH 205 has a prerequisite of BIOL 257 or BIOL 260

² PHT 226 has a prerequisite of PHT 216

³ PHT 260 has a prerequisite of PHT 204

⁴ PHT 265 has a prerequisite of PHT 208

⁵ PHT 275 has a prerequisite of PHT 205

⁶ PHT 291 has a prerequisite of PHT 203, 204, 205, 206, 208, 216, 226, 240, 255, 260, 265, 275, and 290

⁷ ENL 131 has a prerequisite of placement in 100-level English or a corequisite of ENL 095. Students must earn a "C" or better to graduate.

⁸ MAT 120 has a prerequisite of placement in 100-level Math or minimum ACT Math score of 19 or SAT Math score of 510

Program Outcomes:

Personal/Interpersonal Knowledge and Skills

- Demonstrate ethical conduct in all job-related activities.
- Present an image appropriate for the profession of pharmacy in appearance and behavior.
- Communicate clearly when speaking and in writing.
- Demonstrate a respectful attitude when interacting with diverse patient populations.
- Apply self-management skills, including time management, stress management, and adapting to change.
- Apply interpersonal skills, including negotiation skills, conflict resolution, and teamwork.
- Apply critical thinking skills, creativity, and innovation to solve problems.

Foundational Professional Knowledge and Skills

- Demonstrate understanding of healthcare occupations and the health care delivery system.
- Demonstrate understanding of wellness promotion and disease prevention concepts, such as use of health screenings; health practices and environmental factors that impact health; and adverse effects of alcohol, tobacco, and legal and illegal drugs.
- Demonstrate commitment to excellence in the pharmacy profession and to continuing education and training.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in areas of science relevant to the pharmacy technician's role, including anatomy/physiology and pharmacology.
- Perform mathematical calculations essential to the duties of pharmacy technicians in a variety of contemporary settings.
- Demonstrate understanding of the pharmacy technician's role in the medication-use process.
- Demonstrate understanding of major trends, issues, goals, and initiatives taking place in the pharmacy profession.
- Demonstrate understanding of non-traditional roles of pharmacy technicians.
- Identify and describe emerging therapies.
- Demonstrate understanding of the preparation and process for sterile and non-sterile compounding.

Processing and Handling of Medications and Medication Orders

- Assist pharmacists in collecting, organizing, and recording demographic and clinical information for direct patient care and medication-use review.
- Receive and screen prescriptions/medication orders for completeness, accuracy, and authenticity.
- Assist pharmacists in the identification of patients who desire/require counseling to optimize the use of medications, equipment, and devices.
- Prepare non-patient-specific medications for distribution (e.g., batch, stock medications).
- Distribute medications in a manner that follows specified procedures.
- Practice effective infection control procedures, including preventing transmission of blood borne and airborne diseases.
- Assist pharmacists in preparing, storing, and distributing medication products requiring special handling and documentation [(e.g., controlled substances, immunizations, chemotherapy, investigational drugs, drugs with mandated Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS))].
- Assist pharmacists in the monitoring of medication therapy.
- Prepare patient-specific medications for distribution.
- Maintain pharmacy facilities and equipment, including automated dispensing equipment.
- Use material safety data sheets (MSDS) to identify, handle, and safely dispose of hazardous materials.

Sterile and Non-Sterile Compounding

- Prepare medications requiring compounding of sterile products (if selected).
- Prepare medications requiring compounding of non-sterile products (if selected).
- Prepare medications requiring compounding of chemotherapy/hazardous products (if selected).
- Procurement, Billing, Reimbursement and Inventory Management
- Initiate, verify, and assist in the adjudication of billing for pharmacy services and goods, and collect payment for these services.
- Apply accepted procedures in purchasing pharmaceuticals, devices, and supplies
- Apply accepted procedures in inventory control of medications, equipment, and devices.
- Explain pharmacy reimbursement plans for covering pharmacy services.

Patient and Medication Safety

- Apply patient- and medication-safety practices in all aspects of the pharmacy technician's roles.
- Verify measurements, preparation, and/or packaging of medications produced by other healthcare professionals (e.g., tech-check-tech).
- Explain pharmacists' roles when they are responding to emergency situations and how pharmacy technicians can assist pharmacists by being certified as a Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider.
- Demonstrate skills required for effective emergency preparedness.
- Assist pharmacists in medication reconciliation.
- Assist pharmacists in medication therapy management.

Technology and Informatics

- Describe the use of current technology in the healthcare environment to ensure the safety and accuracy of medication dispensing

Regulatory Issues

- Compare and contrast the roles of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in ensuring pharmacy department compliance with professional standards and relevant legal, regulatory, formulary, contractual, and safety requirements.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient information.

Quality Assurance

- Apply quality assurance practices to pharmaceuticals, durable and non-durable medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
- Explain procedures and communication channels to use in the event of a product recall or shortage, a medication error, or identification of another problem.