

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN I CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Overview

- The Pharmacy Technician I Certificate Program is designed to prepare the student for a career in community, hospital or other pharmacy environment, working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist (RPh).
- The courses will prepare the student to take the national Pharmacy Certification Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).
- Further information about the exam may be found at www.ptcb.org. Once the exam is taken and passed, the student will be allowed to use the designation CPhT (Certified Pharmacy Technician).
- The program is offered at Jefferson Technical Campus, Building A, 737 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, KY. This is a two-semester, 23 credit hour program, culminating in the award of a certificate.
Enrollment limited and based on a first come first served basis.

What is the difference between Pharmacy Technician I and Retail Pharmacy Technician?

- The Retail Pharmacy Technician certificate does not contain the PHA 104 (Parenterals) class nor the PHA 250 (Pharmacy Experience) class.
- Without those components, students will not be well suited for a position in a hospital pharmacy environment, but be adequately prepared for the PTCB exam and work in a retail setting.

What does a Pharmacy Technician do?

- The purpose of the pharmacy technician program at JCTC is to prepare the student for entry-mid level position in a pharmacy setting by using didactic, hands-on and experiential instruction in the essential areas in which a technician must function.
- This education will also prepare the student to take the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam.
- The following list of duties is excerpted from the National Pharmacy Technician Association and may be accessed at pharmacytechnician.org.

Basic Job Duties

- *Prepare medications under the direction of a licensed pharmacist.*
- *Measure, mix, count, label and record amounts of dosages of medications.*
- *Receive written prescriptions or refill requests and verify that information is complete and accurate.*
- *Maintain proper storage and security conditions for drugs.*
- *Answer telephones, responding to questions or requests when appropriate.*
- *Fill bottles with prescribed medications and type and affix labels.*
- *Assist customers by answering simple questions, locating items, or referring them to the pharmacist for medication information.*
- *Price and file prescriptions that have been filled.*
- *Clean and help maintain equipment and work areas.*
- *Establish and maintain patient profiles, including lists of medications taken by individual patients.*
- *Order, label and count stock of medication, chemicals and supplies.*
- *Enter and maintain inventory into the computer system.*
- *Sterile product preparation, including TPNs (total Parenterals nutrition) and chemotherapy treatments.*
- *Prepare and process medical insurance claim forms and records.*

- *Mix pharmaceutical preparations according to written prescriptions (compounding).*
- *Operate cash registers to accept payment from customers.*
- *Compute charges for medication and equipment dispensed to health-system patients.*
- *Deliver medications and pharmaceutical supplies to patients, nursing stations or satellite locations.*
- *Price stock and mark items for sale.*
- *Maintain and merchandise over-the-counter medications, products and supplies.*

Employment Outlook and Average Earnings

- The Bureau of Labor and Statistics anticipates a 32% growth in the need for pharmacy technicians (www.bls.gov) from 2006-2016.
- The following is from the BLS website:
 - “Median hourly earnings of wage-and-salary pharmacy technicians in May 2006 were \$12.32.
 - The middle 50 percent earned between \$10.10 and \$14.92.
 - The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$8.56, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$17.65.”
- It is important to note that this is a very fast growing and fast changing industry with different regulations in each state.
 - The one constant is that certified and formally trained pharmacy technicians tend to have higher pay and greater opportunity in more areas.
 - The JCTC pharmacy technician program’s purpose is to provide that foundation for success and prepare the student for the national certification exam, the PTCB.
- Further indication of the state of affairs with regard to pharmacy technicians can be found in the National Pharmacy Technician Association’s report “Learning About Earnings”.
- NPTA CEO Mike Johnston’s inference:
 - “The data collected indicates both progress and decline for the pharmacy technician career.
 - CPhTs are earning more, receiving greater benefits and remaining in the field longer compared to statistics from three years ago.
 - This indicates progress; significant, tangible, quantitative progress.
 - Non-certified pharmacy technicians, on the other hand, are experiencing a career decline – earning less, receiving fewer benefits and having a shorter career span.
 - The entire survey can be summarized in the following statement: ***The more technicians put into their career, the more they get out of it.***”

Admission Requirements and Financial Considerations

- All Jefferson Community and Technical College admission requirements must be met prior to enrolling in the pharmacy technician program. Sufficient scores in math/English should be attained on the Compass or ACT tests. If those scores are not achieved, development math/English course will be required as per the college’s standards.
- Enrollment into the program itself is limited to fifteen new students per Spring and Summer semesters. Although there is no selective admission for this program, interested students should follow the protocol below to assure a seat in the program:
 - Meet with the Program Coordinator (see contact information at the end of this document) prior to enrollment **OR**
 - Attend an advising and information session.
 - These will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 9 AM.
 - Until the move into the new Allied Health and Nursing building (estimated December 2009), these meetings will be held on the Technical Campus at 737 W. Chestnut, Building A, room 125.
 - Attending the meeting or meeting with the advisor does NOT guarantee a position in the program, but will give the student the greatest advantage with regard to complete and up to date information.

- Students awaiting the start of the program can take AHS 115, CIS 100 and COM 252 or their equivalents.
 - These classes are not required as pre-requisites, but can be taken ahead of time and allow the students to focus only on core classes once in the program.
- Students must submit to and pass a background check, and drug testing will be required prior to clinical placement.
 - The PTCB as well as the Kentucky State Board of Pharmacy require a student's background to be free of any and all drug convictions and/or felonies.
 - Students must maintain liability insurance.
- Other financial information and fee schedules may be found in the college catalog or on-line at <http://www.jefferson.kctcs.edu>.
 - Specific questions concerning financial assistance should be directed to the Downtown Campus Financial Aid Office located on the 4th Floor of the Jefferson Education Center, or by calling (502) 213-2146.

Technical Standards:

1. Student should be able to stand for long periods of time.
2. Student should have sufficient visual acuity to read prescriptions and measuring devices.
3. Student should have basic knowledge of computer operations (email, Internet, Microsoft Word). Assistance with this can be found at the Learning Resource Center.
4. Sufficient communication skills (speech, reading, writing) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively, as may be necessary in the patient's interest; and
5. Sufficient intellectual and emotional functions to care for patients and work as a member of a healthcare team.

Courses

The courses span two semesters, **and new students are accepted in Spring and Summer.**

Sample curricula below. Actual sequence of course offering may vary.

Please contact Academic Program Coordinator for specific details.

Spring Start Students – First Semester - Spring 2010

AHS 115	Medical Terminology	3 credit hours
PHA 110	Pharmacy Procedures and Skills	5 credit hours
PHA 125	Pharmacy Calculations	2 credit hours
PHA 136	Pharmacology	3 credit hours

Spring Start Students - Second Semester –Summer 2010

PHA 104	Parenterals	2 credit hours
PHA 250	Pharmacy Experience	2 credit hours
COM 252	Interpersonal Communication	3 credit hours
CIS 100	Introduction to Computing	3 credit hours

23 credit hours total

Expected graduation August 2010

Summer Start Students – First Semester – Summer 2010

AHS 115	Medical Terminology	3 credit hours
PHA 110	Pharmacy Procedures and Skills	5 credit hours
PHA 125	Pharmacy Calculations	2 credit hours

Summer Start Students - Second Semester- Fall 2010

PHA 104	Parenterals	2 credit hours
PHA 136	Pharmacology	3 credit hours
PHA 250	Pharmacy Experience	2 credit hours

COM 252 Interpersonal Communication
CIS 100 Intro to Computing

3 credit hours

3 credit hours

23 credit hours total

Expected graduation December 2010

Program /Faculty Contact Information

Angie Riley-Grimes, RMA, CPhT, MSBC

Academic Program Coordinator

Jefferson Technical Campus, Building A, room 112

Appointment recommended

502-213-4008

angela.riley-grimes@kctcs.edu