

# PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY (A.S.)

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

The pharmacy technician is a skilled technical health worker who performs a wide variety of non-discretionary pharmacy related tasks under the direct supervision of a registered pharmacist. Technical Standards/Essential Functions are available for you review on the program's website. They have been designed to give you more information about the profession and important skills/functions. This information will be helpful to assist you in deciding on your career path. Successful completion of the Pharmacy Technology program qualifies one for registration with the California State Board of Pharmacy. Graduates are also encouraged to complete the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam, the nationally recognized certification exam for pharmacy technicians.

### LENGTH AND KIND OF PROGRAM

General Education and pharmacy technology classes are scheduled on the college campus. Correlated clinical experiences take place in selected hospitals and community pharmacies throughout the area. This broad based program is especially suited for those students who may later choose to pursue higher education in health care areas. Courses are taught by practicing registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

### HEALTH

Employment in this field requires applicants to have good vision, hearing, and the ability to communicate orally. Applicants must present evidence of physical fitness and ability to perform tasks required of a pharmacy technician. Lab, x-ray and immunization records meeting the standards of the clinical site must be completed after acceptance into the program.

### EXPENSES

Students are expected to purchase a student body card. Enrollment fees, project fees, uniforms, books, and supplies will cost approximately \$2,400.00. Students are responsible for their own living accommodations, uniform laundry, and transportation to selected hospitals and clinics.

### ATTENDANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP

All students are expected to observe the attendance requirements of the college and of the Pharmacy Technician Program. To remain in the program, the student must maintain a "C" or higher in each required course. Scholarship and Promotion: Successful completion of all levels of course work is necessary for completion of and graduation from the program of study. In order to complete the program, the student must maintain a grade of "C" or higher whether enrolled in combined lecture/lab courses, practicums, or clinical experiences. When content is tiered, each level must be completed according to identified criteria. Students will be required to repeat certain courses if it has been more than four years since the course was originally passed. (see department for specific courses) Upon successful completion of all program requirements, students are eligible to receive either the Certificate and/or Associate in Arts degree.

### CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Clearance of a criminal background check may be required prior to clinical placement. Students who do not clear agency requirements are

not eligible for clinical placement and will, consequently, be ineligible to continue in the program. If there is any concern regarding clearance of a criminal background check, please contact the Health Occupations Division for additional information.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

1. Submit proof of High School graduation or equivalent.
2. Submit an official transcript of all college work to the Admissions and Records Office and a copy to the Health Occupations Division.
3. Submit assessment test scores for English, Reading, and Math prior to enrolling in PHAR 57. If you have not taken these tests, proof of clearance by course work must appear on your college transcript. If you do not have course work or test scores to submit, apply to Cerritos College, obtain a student number, take the assessment/ placement test at the Assessment Center.
4. It is advised that you make an appointment with a counselor to review test scores and college work. To make an appointment with a counselor, call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2231.
5. Clearance of criminal background check and/or drugs of abuse testing and immunization status may be required prior to enrolling in PHAR 90 and PHAR 95.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

- Students process a prescription
- Students apply mathematical calculations essential to the duties of pharmacy technicians in a variety of pharmacy settings.
- Students classify medications and their uses as relevant to the role of a pharmacy technician.
- Students compare and contrast the roles of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in ensuring pharmacy department compliance with professional standards and relevant legal, regulatory, formulary requirements, contractual, and safety requirements.
- Students prepare medications requiring compounding of sterile, non-sterile, and hazardous products.

## Program Requirements

Code Number	Course Title	Units
<b>Required Courses</b>		
HO 56	Medication Calculations	1.0
PHAR 50	Pharmaceutics	1.5
PHAR 55	Pharmacy Introduction	1.5
PHAR 56	Pharmacy Skills Lab Introduction	0.5
PHAR 57	Pharmacy Operations I	1.5
PHAR 63	Pharmacy Operations II	2.0
PHAR 64	Pharmacy Operations III	2.5
PHAR 65	Pharmacy Operations IV - Non-Sterile Compounding	2.0
PHAR 81	Over-The-Counter Products	3.0
PHAR 83	Pharmacy Technician Pharmacology I	3.0
PHAR 85	Pharmacy Technician Pharmacology II	3.0
PHAR 90	Clinical Experience I	3.5
PHAR 95	Clinical Experience II	5.0
MA 161 or A&P 120	Medical Terminology Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	3.0-4.0
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>33-34</b>

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Meet the major requirements in Pharmacy Technology and complete electives and General Education requirements to achieve a minimum of 60 units.

### Mathematics Proficiency Requirement

This requirement can be met by one of the following options:

1. Pass intermediate algebra college courses or Math courses numbered 100 or above, PSYC 210, ECON 210 or equivalents with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass"
  - a. Receive a score of 3 or better on a Math AP exam (AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC)."
  - b. Receive credit by exam in Math 80

### Reading Proficiency Requirement

This requirement can be met by one of the following options:

1. Completion of READ 100, READ 101, or READ 103, or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or Pass.
2. Completion of any Plan B Area A3 course or any Plan C Area 1B course or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or Pass.
3. Receive a score of 3 or better on the English Language & Composition or English Literature and Composition AP Exam.
4. Receive a credit by exam in READ 101 at Cerritos College.

### Writing Proficiency Requirement

1. Completion of ENGL 100 or ENGL 100s or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass"
2. Completion of ESL 180 or equivalent with a grade of "C" or higher or "Pass"

### Career Opportunities

Employment as a Pharmacy Technician in a community, hospital pharmacy, or any other fields of pharmacy assisting registered pharmacists in the performance of assigned duties. See Cerritos College Graduation Requirements.

**Notes:** Students applying for pharmacy school must carefully follow the specific college/university requirements as listed in the college catalog for transfer. Please contact a Pharmacy Technology Program Counselor for additional help.