

Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacy Technicians help Pharmacists dispense prescription medication to customers or health professionals.

Pharmacy Technicians typically do the following:

- Collect information needed to fill a prescription from customers or health professionals
- Measure amounts of medication for prescriptions
- Package and label prescriptions
- Organize inventory and alert pharmacists to any shortages of medications or supplies
- Accept payment for prescriptions and process insurance claims
- Enter customer or patient information, including any prescriptions taken, into a computer system
- Answer phone calls from customers
- Arrange for customers to speak with pharmacists if customers have questions about medications or health matters

Pharmacy Technicians work under the supervision of Pharmacists, who must review prescriptions before they are given to patients. In most states, Technicians can compound or mix some medications and call Physicians for prescription refill authorizations. Technicians also may need to operate automated dispensing equipment when filling prescription orders.

Work Environment

Pharmacy Technicians work in pharmacies, including those found in drug, general merchandise, and grocery stores, and in hospitals. Pharmacy Technicians working in hospitals and other medical facilities prepare a greater variety of medications, such as intravenous medications. They may make rounds in the hospital, giving medications to patients.

Most work full time, but many work part time.

Watch a video about being a Pharmacy Technician

Top local employers: Walgreens, CVS, Soliant Health, Kaiser Permanente, Rx Relief, Inc.

Median Pay

\$45,080

Projected Job Growth (2020-2025)

4%



Education and Training

Pharmacy Technicians usually need a high school diploma or equivalent and learn their duties through on-the-job training, or they may complete a postsecondary education program in Pharmacy Technology.

Local Education:

[Foothill College](#)

[Mission College](#)

For More Information:

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Certification Board](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission](#)

