



# Pharmacy Technician

## What is a Pharmacy Technician?

Also known as a Pharmaceutical Technician, a Pharmacy Technician acts as an assistant to the pharmacist, or professional. They help them set up and distribute the needed pharmaceutical products, as well as any other related healthcare products. Their primary responsibility is to engage in distributing a variety of products to patients; these products include prescription drugs and medical devices, as well as teaching patients how to use them.



## What does a Pharmacy Technician do?

The Pharmacy Technician also has a number of different responsibilities, which they are expected to fulfill, including:

- collecting information from patients and prescribers
- receiving and handling drug orders
- preparation and distribution of the product
- process billing for the product
- compounding the pharmacy's products
- maintaining pharmacy records
- managing the pharmacy's inventory
- keeping track of the products' expiration dates
- talking with patients and providers via the telephone
- ensuring the overall security and orderliness of the pharmacy

They also have a number of non-traditional duties, which may include research, law enforcement, teaching, manufacturing, auditing, healthcare administration, and more.

## Education and Training

The CA Business and Professions Code section 4202 requires a person applying for a pharmacy technician license to be a high school graduate or possess a general education development (GED) certificate. An individual may qualify by completing an Associate Degree in Pharmacy Technology, a Pharmacy Technician course that provides a minimum of 240 hours of instruction as specified in Title 16 California Code of Regulation, a training course accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists or graduation from a school of pharmacy accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

## How are the opportunities for this job?

There are a lot of opportunities for a Pharmacy Technician. This is mainly because of the current shortage of pharmacists. According to a study conducted by the United States Department of Labor, this profession is expected to receive a faster than average growth through 2018, with estimations reaching up to 31%. This is especially true for those who wish to become certified in the field, with states needing certification as a prerequisite to practice in the field.

## How Much Can I Earn?

According to a study by the United States Department of Labor, the median wage pharmacy technicians all over the US back in 2010 was \$13.65, and it increased from there. As of 2012, pharmacy technicians were earning \$12-16 an hour if they were non-certified; and \$13-19 an hour if they were certified. These are simply averages, however; please contact your state's department of labor or workforce commission for more information. Salaries can be notably lower in other states in the U.S. For more information on salaries go to: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>