



PHARMACY TECHNICIAN



INDUSTRY LOOKOUT

As of the last quarter of 2018—and for the first time in our history—the healthcare industry **surpassed** manufacturing and retail as the largest source of jobs in the United States. Partially due to the rapidly aging population and the wild growth of medical spending, the numbers keep going up. According to an **Axios** report, prescription drug spending increases at a rate of 3.3 percent per year. That means there is a great need for pharmacy technicians.

If you're looking for opportunities in the healthcare industry, consider a career as a pharmacy technician.



WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN?

A pharmacy technician helps pharmacists dispense prescription medications. Additional **duties** may include:

- Screening prescription orders for accuracy
- Performing calculations to dispense the proper amount of prescription drugs
- Reconciling prescription orders
- Preparing prescriptions for customers: retrieving, counting, pouring, measuring and weighing medications
- Helping with the management of drug studies
- Using technology (such as computers) to accurately maintain patient records, prepare and package prescriptions, and order medication

WHAT IS THE WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS?



A pharmacy technician can work in a variety of medical settings, such as:

- Retail or community pharmacies
- Hospitals and clinics
- Nursing homes
- Ambulatory care pharmacies
- Mail order pharmacies
- Military medical facilities



WHAT IS THE GOING WAGE FOR A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN?

In 2018, the **median wage** for a licensed pharmacy technician was \$32,700 or \$15.72 per hour. However, wages may increase if technicians are promoted to supervisory positions, seek specialization or pursue additional training and **certification**. Pharmacy technician credentialing may lead to:

- Better job opportunities
- Increased chance of a higher salary
- Career growth likelihood
- Prestige from peers and colleagues
- Additional job responsibilities
- Validation of your knowledge and experience

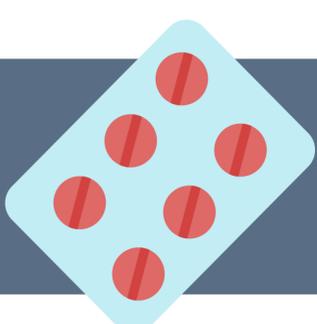
WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS AND STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIANS?



Pharmacy technicians are regulated by the state and not the federal government. However, federal pharmacy technicians work for the Veteran's Administration (VA), the Public Health Service (PHS) or the military. Each state has its own set of requirements. In Illinois, the State Board of Pharmacy determines the **requirements** for pharmacy technicians. Illinois requirements are:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Have a high school diploma or GED (or in pursuit of a GED)
- Submit a written application and fee (currently \$60)
- Enroll in pharmacy technician training

Pharmacy technician licenses must be renewed annually, and certification is required within two years of initial licensing to be able to renew licenses.



WHAT DO THE NUMBERS INDICATE?

- 56% of organizations offer **career advancement** for pharmacy technicians
- 7% **growth rate** for pharmacy technicians (higher than average)
- 81% of **surveyed pharmacy techs** expect to remain in their careers for more than 5 years
- 9 out of 20 of the **fastest-growing occupations** are in healthcare

Chicago—a hub for medicine—needs pharmacy technicians! Enroll in pharmacy technician programs at **Coyne College**, and in as few as 42 weeks you can be qualified for an entry-level position for an in-demand job in a hospital or pharmacy.

