

Pharmacy Technician



What do they do?

Pharmacy Technicians help licensed pharmacists dispense prescription medications. They take prescription information, count or measure the prescription, mix ointments, package and label prescriptions, take payment, and perform other routine tasks.

Where do they work?

Pharmacy Technicians work directly with customers in pharmacies located in hospitals, grocery and drug stores. Pharmacies can be open at all hours, so some pharmacy technicians might work nights or weekends.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Pharmacy Technicians is \$29,320.



Education:

There are no college level education requirements to become a pharmacy technician.

Other requirements vary by state. In Wisconsin, you do not have to be certified to work as a pharmacy technician, although certification can be helpful in getting a job.

Certified Pharmacy Technician training in Madison:

UW Health: Requires 2 years of professional work experience.

www.uwhealth.org/health-careers-education-and-training/pharmacy-technician-training-program/38835

Accreditation:

Education programs for certification in Pharmacy Technology are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

You can find additional schools in Wisconsin and nationwide by going to their website:

www.credentialingexcellence.org



Certification:

Pharmacy technicians may choose to take a competency exam to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)

Certification is administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and the National Health Career Association (NHA).

You can find more information on how to become certified by going to their websites:

www.ptcb.org

www.nhanow.com



Professional Associations:

Pharmacy Technicians can join the National Pharmacy Technician Association. You can learn more by going to their website:

www.pharmacytechnician.org

In Wisconsin, Pharmacy Technicians can also join the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin. You can learn more by going to their website:

www.pswi.org



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Pharmacy Technicians is expected to grow 20 percent between 2012-2022, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Pharmacy Technicians:
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm>

