



PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY

www.sac.edu/pharmacy
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LOOKING FOR A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE?

Santa Ana College (SAC) has a PHARMACY TECHNICIAN training program that's just what the doctor ordered!

Whether you want to work for a drug store, a hospital, or a home care pharmacy, Santa Ana College is ready to help you develop the skills you will need. As a student, you will benefit from the faculty's years of experience in both pharmacy practice and technician education. And you'll be training in a program that is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). That's your guarantee that your training meets the national standards established by ASHP. In fact, Santa Ana College was the very first community college to receive ASHP accreditation. From the beginning of the program in 1972, Santa Ana College has been a leader in pharmacy technician education.

At Santa Ana College, you will be trained in a well-equipped environment, using many of the latest technologies and supplies. Our labs allow extensive hands-on skill development in computer application, inpatient drug packaging and distribution, prescription preparation, compounding, and aseptic technique.

The role of the pharmacy technician keeps changing as pharmacy practice evolves. At Santa Ana College, we believe that an educated pharmacy technician will have a more secure future than a technician who was trained to do specific tasks. While that makes the SAC program more rigorous, it also prepares students to meet future challenges in the practice of pharmacy.

To be a successful pharmacy technician, you must be proficient in your technical skills. You must also be accurate in your calculations, precise in your measurements, and confident in your communications. Although good English skills are very important, bilingual pharmacy technicians are in great demand.

Santa Ana College offers courses that can help you develop **ALL** of the skills you need for success!

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Many students obtain entry-level jobs as **pharmacy clerks** before they complete their technician training. Working in **community pharmacies** or chain **drug stores**, pharmacy clerks perform customer service, inventory control, cashiering, insurance billing, and computer activities. Pharmacy clerks generally earn between \$9 and \$11 per hour, though experienced clerks may earn \$12 per hour or more. Pharmacy technicians in retail pharmacies perform many of the same duties as the pharmacy clerks, but technicians also prepare prescriptions for dispensing. Entry-level pharmacy technician salaries range between \$15 and \$18 per hour, with a median salary between \$15 and \$16 per hour.

Pharmacy technicians also work in **hospitals, home infusion/home health, and compounding** pharmacies. These pharmacies often pay at a higher rate because they demand a more advanced level of technical skill. Students who want to work in one of these practice sites must complete the Advanced (ASHP-Accredited) Certificate or the associate degree program. Pharmacy technicians who work in specialized pharmacies may earn as much as \$21 or \$22 per hour, up to \$26 per hour.

Pharmacy technicians can expect to work varying shifts. Many pharmacies are open seven days a week, with daytime and evening hours. Some pharmacies provide 24-hour service. Part-time and *per diem* (on-call) positions are also available.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN LICENSE

All pharmacy technicians must be licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy before beginning to work in California. A license is not required for persons working as pharmacy clerks or pharmacy assistants.

To obtain a pharmacy technician license, you must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, have a social security number and therefore right to work, and submit an application that documents your academic qualifications. All three training options at Santa Ana College meet the Board of Pharmacy requirements.

In addition to completing the application, the Board will require that you to submit:

- Live Scan fingerprints for a background check
- A recent photograph, high school transcript
- Self-Query Report, check or money order for license fee

Complete information about the pharmacy technician license is available on the California State Board of Pharmacy web site at www.pharmacy.ca.gov

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

A **Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)** has successfully passed the national Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (**PTCB**) Exam. By becoming certified, you are demonstrating your ability to work as a pharmacy technician. CPhT's are qualified to apply for the pharmacy technician license.

At this time, certification is *voluntary* in California. You can become licensed *without* being certified, as long as you have completed the required coursework.

Although certification is voluntary, Santa Ana College strongly encourages its graduates to take the PTCB exam. Many employers require their technicians to be certified, so passing the PTCB exam may help you get a job!

If you are interested in becoming a **certified** pharmacy technician, visit www.ptcb.org. The PTCB can provide you with a candidate's handbook and information on testing dates, locations, and fees.



www.sac.edu • 714-564-6158 • 1530 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, CA, 92706

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PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING OPTIONS

SAC offers three training options for pharmacy technicians, all based on the national "Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Training". All three training options prepare you to become **licensed** by the California State Board of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Technology classes are designed for part-time students. Flexible scheduling allows you to complete the program quickly - or to extend the program by taking just one class at a time. To complete the program quickly, first semester students should enroll in **PHAR 048, PHAR 054, and either PHAR 051 or PHAR 052**.

You must complete each required course with a grade of "C" or better (Externship with a grade of "P") to qualify for a certificate or associate degree in Pharmacy Technology. Although not required for the Basic Certificate option, enrollment in PHAR Lab-Series (Skills Lab) is highly recommended for students taking the Pharmacy Technology lab classes (PHAR 056, 057, and 060). Background check, health screening and urine drug test are required.

Basic Certificate

20 units

This Basic Certificate option provides the *minimum training* needed to apply for your Board of Pharmacy license. This option primarily prepares you for *drug store* employment. It does not provide adequate training for jobs in hospital or home infusion pharmacies.

- PHAR 048: Introduction to Pharmacy Technology
- PHAR 051: Body Systems I
- PHAR 052: Body Systems II- available in the Fall only.
- PHAR 054A&B: Pharmacy Calculations
- PHAR 056: Pharmacy Operations
- PHAR 072: Externship (*Outpatient rotation: 80 hours*) and

Choose 1 course from the following: CMST 097, 101, 101H, 102. This option requires approximately 8 to 12 months of training.

Advanced (ASHP-Accredited) Certificate

32 units

This option provides the complete training required by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). Students who complete this option will be ready for employment in *any* pharmacy practice site! Students are strongly encouraged to continue with the Advanced Certificate courses after completing the Basic Certificate option.

The Advanced Certificate includes all of the Basic Certificate courses, **plus**:

- PHAR 057: Inpatient Pharmacy Services
- PHAR 060: Sterile Products
- PHAR 072: Externship (*Inpatient & IV rotations: 120 hours each*)
- PHAR Lab-Series: Skills Lab (0.5 units)

Earning the Advanced Certificate will expand your job opportunities. This option requires three or four semesters of training.

Associate Degree

You can earn either an AA or an AS degree, with a major in Pharmacy Technology, by completing **all** of the Advanced Certificate courses **plus** the Santa Ana College general education requirements. This option can be completed in four semesters of full-time study, including time for externship. This option is also ASHP-accredited. Students with existing Associate or Bachelor Degrees in other fields are qualified for the A.S. Degree in Pharmacy Technology without having to repeat GE courses.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rancho Santiago Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and all access to institutional programs and activities. The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to District's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator. RSCCD Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator: John Didion, 2323 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706, 714-480-7489.

Gainful Employment:

<http://www.sac.edu/AcademicProgs/HST/Pages/PharmacyTechnologyAdvancedCertificate.html>



PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY MAJOR COURSES

PHAR 048: INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY

Units: 2 Class hours: 32 lecture total
Prerequisite: none Advisory reading level: 4
Overview of the SAC pharmacy technician program. Definition of the roles and preview of the opportunities open to pharmacy technicians in various practice settings. Presentation of the pharmaceutical dosage forms, drug development processes, and drug classification systems. Introduction to prescription labeling and the law and ethics of pharmacy practice.

PHAR 051: BODY SYSTEMS I

Units: 3.5 Class hours: 56 lecture total
Prerequisite: none Advisory reading level: 4
Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology of the musculoskeletal, respiratory, renal, and cardiovascular systems. Basic terminology with emphasis on word analysis and construction, medical abbreviations, and lay terms. Trade/generic names & indications for each body system.

PHAR 052: BODY SYSTEMS II

Units: 3.5 Class hours: 56 lecture total
Prerequisite: none Advisory reading level: 4
Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology of the integumentary, endocrine, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. Basic terminology, with emphasis on word analysis and construction, medical abbreviations, and lay terms. Trade/generic names & indications for each body system.

PHAR 054A&B: PHARMACY CALCULATIONS

Units: 2 Class hours: 32 lecture total
Prerequisite: none Advisory reading level: 4
Calculations related to drug dosage, measurements of strength, and preparation of medications. Includes interconversion of units in the metric and common systems of measurement. Emphasis on unit-cancellation for solving pharmacy situation problems. **Strong verbal component.**

PHAR 056: PHARMACY OPERATIONS

Units: 4.5 Class hours: 48 lecture, 80 lab total
Prerequisites: PHAR 048, 054, and 051 or 052; with grade of C or better; 30 wpm typing
Technical aspects of drug distribution for outpatient pharmacy settings. Hands-on training in customer service, inventory control, compounding, prescription processing, and medication repackaging (manual and automated). Includes electronic and manual record-keeping, pharmacy law, and CQI.

PHAR 057: INPATIENT PHARMACY SERVICES

Units: 2 Class hours: 18 lecture, 48 lab total
Prerequisites: PHAR 048, 054, & 051 or 052; with grade of C or better; 30 wpm typing.
Technical aspects of drug distribution for the inpatient (hospital) pharmacy setting. Hands-on training in medication order processing, pharmacy patient profile maintenance, medication preparation, and inpatient drug distribution using manual and automated systems. Includes electronic and manual record-keeping, pharmacy law, and CQI.

PHAR 060: STERILE PRODUCTS

Units: 4.5 Class hours: 48 lecture, 80 lab total
Prerequisites: PHAR 048, 054, & 051 or 052; 30 wpm typing
Application of aseptic techniques and use of the laminar flow hood in the preparation of sterile products. Emphasis on parenteral calculations, sterile dosage forms, and quality assurance procedures. Includes the pharmacology of antimicrobial and antineoplastic drugs.

PHAR Lab-Series: PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY SKILLS LAB

Units: 0.5 per semester (optional for Basic Certificate, 0.5 unit is required for Advanced Certificate and A.S. Degree) Class Hours: Arranged, Lab Hours: 192
Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in PHAR 056, 057, 060, 072, or 084. Returning students who took 056, 057, 060, 072, or 084 can take Phar 061 alone.

Supervised use of the Pharmacy Technology lab to assist in developing competency in the skills required to successfully complete the Pharmacy Operations, Inpatient Pharmacy Services, Sterile Products, Pharmacy Technology Externship, and/or Sterile Products Review courses. Lab hours verified by sign-in. May be repeated. Open entry/open exit. Grade: P/NP only.

PHAR 072: PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY EXTERNSHIP

Units: 0.5 - 4.0 Class hours: 320 hours total
Prerequisites: Completion of Pharmacy Technology 056, 057 or 060 with a grade of C or better; current TB clearance. On-site training in three pharmacy practice settings. Students must complete the related lab course prior to placement in a specific rotation: PHAR 056 and 057 for outpatient and inpatient, PHAR 060 for sterile products. Students must pass the trade-generic test prior to placement. Some sites require additional screening. Completion of all three rotations (320 hours) required for the advanced certificate. Grade: P/NP only. Rev Fall 15.