

SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Pharmacy Technology Program

www.sac.edu/pharmacy

PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY

www.sac.edu/pharmacy (714) 564-6800

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 fluent 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 \$12 and \$16 per hour, with a median salary between \$14 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. Persons with illicit drug use or criminal background will not be granted licenses.

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.

