

Pharmacy Technology Fact Sheet

What is the purpose of this program?

The Pharmacy Technology diploma program is designed to enable the student to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for employment within a pharmacy. Program graduates will be able to perform a variety of technical duties related to preparing, dispensing, and compounding medications in accordance with standard procedures and laws under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. A variety of didactic, laboratory, and clinical experiences integrate theory and practice. Graduates will be employable as entry-level pharmacy technicians.

Is the program accredited?

The Pharmacy Technician training program conducted by the Pharmacy Technology program at Ogeechee Technical College, Statesboro, Georgia is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), 4500 East-West Highway, Suite 900, Bethesda, MD 20814, 866.279.0681.

What does a pharmacy technician do?

The pharmacy technician works under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist to supply medicines to patients, assemble medications for prescriptions, and provide information to patients and other healthcare professionals. Pharmacy technicians work in many different environments such as retail or community pharmacies, department or grocery stores, hospital pharmacies, prisons, and the military.

Will I be a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) when I graduate?

After completion of the program, you will be prepared to take the certification exam. The decision to take the exam is yours to make. All students are required to attain licensure from the Georgia Board of Pharmacy. Students cannot conduct job shadowing exercises or clinical experiences without licensure. The Program Director will provide the student with information regarding licensure during advisement. Prior to completion of the program, students may register to take the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination. In order to sit for the PTCE, a candidate must have never been convicted of a felony. Students are responsible for submitting applications and all fees for the licensure and examination.

Do I have to pass the certification exam to get a job?

While you do not have to be certified to work as a pharmacy technician in the state of Georgia, you will likely find that the job opportunities and pay are better for certified pharmacy technicians. The Georgia Board of Pharmacy requires a ratio of one pharmacist providing direct supervision of no more than three pharmacy technicians, and one of the three technicians must be certified.

Is this a good career?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average wage for a pharmacy technician in 2016 was \$15.47 per hour or \$32,170 annually. Employment is expected to grow 12% between 2016 and 2026, and 47,600 new positions are expected during this period of growth. In Georgia, 11,980 pharmacy technicians were employed in 2016, with an average reported salary of \$28,990.

How long does this program take to finish?

It generally takes a full-time student 5 semesters to complete the program.

What will I do during this program?

The program begins with general core classes to ensure that all students have a solid foundational knowledge before beginning program classes. Program classes begin with general fundamentals classes and progress to more advanced skills and information. Students are first exposed to information and concepts in the classroom and progress to practice in the laboratory. Laboratory exercises will also include simulation of situations that you may encounter in a pharmacy setting. Toward the end of the program, you will complete clinical rotations at a hospital and a retail setting. The clinical experience provides on-the-job experience and training prior to graduation.

How will I know about local job opportunities?

As local employers notify OTC of job opportunities, those job listings are posted on the [Career Services Webpage](#). The Program Director also shares information about local jobs with current students and graduates when contacted by local pharmacists.