Pharmacy Technician

About the profession ...

A pharmacy technician is someone who works under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and assists the pharmacist in such tasks as filling prescriptions, packaging doses, performing inventory control, and keeping records. To be successful in this profession, an individual must enjoy working with people, be attentive to detail, dependable and trustworthy. The pharmacy technician must demonstrate strong interpersonal skills because they will regularly interact with patients/customers and co-workers. The pharmacy technician must have a strong understanding of pharmaceutical terminology and medical abbreviations as well as be able to perform mathematical calculations related to filling prescriptions. The pharmacy technician must also be able to use a computer as well as other devices which require technological skill. A pharmacy technician cannot legally work in the State of Indiana unless they have received their “blue card” certificate from the Board.

About the work environment ...

Pharmacy technicians are employed in community pharmacies and in hospitals. More than half of pharmacy technicians are employed in retail pharmacies, including those found in grocery and drug stores.

About the career outlook ...

According to the U. S. Department of Labor, the median wage in Indiana for a pharmacy technician is $12.94 per hour. Employment opportunities for pharmacy technicians are expected to increase by 32 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations.

About career and educational advancement ...

Completion of all courses in the Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana certificate program sequence leads to eligibility to sit for certification examination through either the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) or the National Healthcareer Association (ExCPT), both Indiana State Board of Pharmacy recognized certification exams. Employment in Indiana requires that one has completed an Indiana Board approved training and education program or has passed an Indiana Board approved examination. Ivy Tech Community College is an Indiana State Board of Pharmacy approved program. This certification qualifies as one of two certifications required for the Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Care Support. Please see www.ivytech.edu/academics for the full curriculum.
About duties and responsibilities of the pharmacy technician ...

Typical duties and responsibilities include:

- Take from customers or health professionals the information needed to fill a prescription
- Count tablets and measure amounts of other medication for prescriptions
- Compound or mix medications, such as preparing ointments
- Package and label prescriptions
- Accept payment for prescriptions and process insurance claims
- Perform routine pharmacy tasks, such as answering phone calls from customers

About the curriculum ... (Suggested Sequence)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1:</th>
<th>Semester 2:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APHY 101 Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>APHY 102 Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLHS 101 Medical Terminology</td>
<td>HLHS 115 Pharmacology for Health Care Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 101 Pharmacy Technician I</td>
<td>PHAR 201 Pharmacy Technician II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 202 Pharmacy Technician Experiential Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About additional references ...

Visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics, on the Internet at [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Pharmacy-technicians.htm#tab-1](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Pharmacy-technicians.htm#tab-1)


Visit the National Center for O*NET Development, O*NET Online, Summary Report for: 29-2052.00 - Pharmacy Technicians, on the Internet at [http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2052.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2052.00)

Visit the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, on the Internet at [http://www.in.gov/pla/2974.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/2974.htm)

Frequently Asked Questions ...

- What are the requirements to work as a pharmacy technician in Indiana?

Employment in Indiana requires that one be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, have not been convicted of a crime that has direct bearing upon ability to work with legend (prescription) drugs or controlled substances, complete a criminal background check and have completed an Indiana Board approved training and education program or have passed an Indiana Board approved examination. Please see the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency website for details at [http://www.in.gov/pla/2898.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/2898.htm) Ivy Tech Community College is an Indiana State Board of Pharmacy approved program.

- Is there any specific uniform, dress code or supplies that are required?

Uniforms are required for attendance in the experiential seminar course (PHAR202). The uniform is commonly scrub pants with a short sleeve scrub top; however, a dress is acceptable. You may wear a white undershirt (long/short sleeved) which must be tucked in under the top. Impermeable, closed-toed, closed-back, predominately white shoes with nonskid soles in good condition must be worn. Crocs, clogs, flip-flops and sandals are NOT permitted.
Hair must be off the collar and out of the face. Facial hair must be maintained, short and neat. Fingernails must be short and clean. Intact clear polish is permitted. Acrylic nails are NOT permitted. One set of post earrings and a watch may be worn. All tattoos must be covered and other piercings must be removed or clear posts inserted.

A required lab pack must be purchased through the bookstore. All supplies will be kept in the lab because items such as needles cannot be dispensed. Students who have not purchased the required lab pack may NOT participate in lab resulting in failure to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, thus resulting in failure of the course.

- **When is the experiential training?**

  The experiential seminar course (PHAR202) is completed during the last four weeks of the semester through on campus simulation and/or assignment at a retail pharmacy, at the instructor’s discretion. Retail pharmacy experience may be scheduled during the day or evening shift anywhere between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. There are no weekends either required or available. Experiential assignments are made by the instructor and are contingent upon site availability at a retail pharmacy in our Northwest region service area.

- **Am I required to have a criminal background check, drug screen or physical exam with immunizations?**

  Criminal background checks and drug screenings will be required for clinical placement of all students in School of Health Sciences programs, including the pharmacy technician program. Current criminal background check and drug screening documentation obtained through the provider of the College’s choice must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of any course in which experiential, clinical or externship assignment is required. Students who refuse to comply with the background check and drug screening will not be eligible to enroll in clinical courses. Completion of background checks and/or drug screenings from other vendors, such as those required by current employers of the students, may not be used in lieu of the College requirements. Completion of a criminal background check and drug screening does not ensure experiential, clinical or externship placement. Affiliate sites have the right to refuse any student for clinical placement. Policy at affiliate sites may vary in whether or not students with particular positive findings on the background check will be allowed to attend. Completion of a criminal background check and drug screening does not ensure eligibility for licensure, credentialing, or future employment. Additional criminal background checks and/or drug screenings may be required for licensure, credentialing, or employment. The State of Indiana requires a fingerprint background check through the State approved vendor as part of the application process for a Pharmacy Technician-In-Training Permit. This fingerprint background check is **IN ADDITION to the ITCC required background check**. Please see the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency website for details at [http://www.in.gov/pla/3241.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/3241.htm).

  A physical examination, documentation of immunity to communicable diseases and screening for tuberculosis will be required for all health science students enrolled in courses where affiliation agreements require such. Documentation must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of any course in which experiential assignment is required. The student’s health care provider must complete a physical assessment. Records of current immunization status and tuberculosis screening are required by affiliating clinical institutions and the Indiana State Department of Health. Required immunizations include, but may not be limited to, Hepatitis B, Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. Individual clinical affiliating agencies may have additional, more stringent requirements.

  For students who register less than two weeks prior to the start of courses, please see the program handbook for specific due dates.
Is there anything else that I should know?

Students are required by the State of Indiana to hold a valid Pharmacy Technician-In-Training Permit. Please see the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency website for details at http://www.in.gov/pla/2893.htm. A valid permit must be presented on the first day of class.

Steps required for completion of the Pharmacy Technician certificate sequence ...

- Apply to the College.
- Complete Compass testing or waiver along with any required Academic Skills Advancement courses.
- HLHS101 (Medical Terminology) and APHY101 (Anatomy and Physiology I) must be completed with a D or better prior to starting HLHS115, PHAR101 and PHAR201.
- Submit documentation of current criminal background check and drug screening obtained from a provider of the College’s choice, physical examination, TB testing and immunizations, as required, two weeks prior to the start of PHAR101. Contact information for the provider can be obtained from the Secretary for the School of Health Sciences.
- Submit application to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency for a Pharmacy Technician-In-Training permit. A valid Pharmacy Technician-In-Training permit must be presented on the first day of class.
- All of the courses in the Pharmacy Technician CT curriculum, including APHY101, APHY102, HLHS101, HLHS115, PHAR101, PHAR201 and PHAR202 must be completed upon completion of the experiential seminar (PHAR202). The National Healthcareer Association (ExCPT) exam will be completed near the end of PHAR202 as part of the course requirements.

References ...


CareerOneStop, U. S. Department of Labor, Occupation Profile - Pharmacy Technicians, on the Internet at http://www.careerinfonet.org/occ_rep.asp?optstatus=0110000000&soccode=292052&id=1&nodeid=2&stfips=18&search=Go

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, Indiana Board of Pharmacy - Pharmacy Technician Requirements and Application, on the Internet at http://www.in.gov/pla/2898.htm

National Center for O*NET Development, O*NET Online, Summary Report for: 29-2052.00 - Pharmacy Technicians, on the Internet at http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2052.00

Contact information ...

Please see the full list of program faculty and advisors at http://www.ivytech.edu/academics for more information.