**How much can I expect to make as a certified pharmacy technician?**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average pharmacy technician salary is $36,740, with the highest 10% earning more than $47,000 per year.

**What is a pharmacy technician?**

Pharmacy technicians are critical members of the healthcare field who work alongside pharmacists in hospitals, drug and grocery stores, and other medical settings, where they help with the health and safety of customers—ensuring key medication-related duties are met and fulfilled.

**What does a pharmacy technician do?**

You will play an integral role in pharmacy operations as a pharmacy technician. Duties can include:

* Assisting a pharmacist as they prepare and hand out prescription medication
* Taking prescriptions, helping mix medicines, measuring medication, labeling medicines, and giving patients instructions for proper dosages and side effects
* Taking payments and working with both health professionals and pharmacy customers daily.

**Where can pharmacy technicians work?**

Pharmacy technicians work in pharmacies. A pharmacy can be found in hospitals or healthcare facilities, drug and grocery stores, or may be independent.

**What are some of the things that Pharmacy Technicians can't do inside the pharmacy?**

Pharmacy technicians can't perform certain jobs without the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. They aren't allowed to make judgment calls related to drug substitutions, interpret prescriptions, or give instructions for preparing prescriptions. In most areas, they also can't take a chart order or a new prescription over the phone. They also can't dispense medication unless the order for the prescription has been verified by a pharmacist.

**How do I become a pharmacy technician?**

Pharmacy technicians must have a high school diploma or equivalent and understand how to perform the essential pharmacy duties. Candidates can complete a certificate or postsecondary program to gain the knowledge and skills they need. Some can even gain the training they need on the job; however, most states regulate pharmacy technicians and require that they pass an exam or complete a formal training program. To work as a pharmacy technician in most states, you will need to either be licensed or have a professional certificate.

**How do I get a pharmacy tech license?**

Not all states require a pharmacy tech license, so you should check your state's Board of Pharmacy website for more information. [PTCB State Regulations](https://www.ptcb.org/resources/state-regulations-and-map)

**How long does it take to become a pharmacy technician?**

Many pharmacy technician programs can be completed in one year or less. This does not include the time you spend in a Practicum Experience program or preparing and sitting for state licensure.

**How long does it take to complete pharmacy tech school?**

Our Pharmacy Technician course is self-paced and completed in 12 months or less. As part of your program, you will also complete a 100-hour Practicum Experience if you qualify. Finally, you will receive a voucher as a part of your program to sit for your certification exam. Once you are certified, you'll have the qualifications you need to find an entry-level job in any pharmacy.

**How do I go from pharmacy technician to pharmacist?**

There are a few different ways to become a pharmacist after you gain experience working as a pharmacy technician. First, you will need to earn a bachelor's degree by earning an associate degree and rolling the credits into a 4-year program or enrolling directly into a pre-pharmacy bachelor's program. Second, after earning your bachelor's degree, you will need to take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). Your scores on this standardized test, along with previous contributions to the pharmacy industry (such as volunteer hours, membership in pharmacy organizations, and of course, working as a pharmacy technician), will be used to determine your acceptance to pharmacy school. Once accepted, you will attend school for another 4-5 years before taking and passing your state pharmacy board and law exams. Finally, your hard work will pay off, and you will be granted a license to practice as a pharmacist in your state.

**Is there a demand for Pharmacy Technicians?**

Yes, Pharmacy Technicians are currently in demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the jobs for Pharmacy Technicians with certification will increase by 12 percent over the next several years which is faster than average. Increased demand for prescription medications will be the primary driver of the growth in the number of positions. The BLS also suggests that people with formal training or certification will be more sought after to fill open positions.

**What is a PTCB certification?**

The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) administers the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), which determines an individual's pharmacy technician knowledge. When you pass the exam, you become certified and may use the designation "CPhT". You will need to sit for the exam after this course; certification is not included. A voucher for the PTCE is included based on eligibility.

**How can I find my state's requirements for certification?**

Online is a great resource for finding your state's requirements for certification. All states have a website with the Board of Pharmacy information. You can access this information directly or view a map from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) website at [www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org/). Click on the "states" link for information. You can also call the state board and ask for the current technician regulations.**This course does not meet state requirements for students intending to work in North Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.**

**What if my state requires more than what's offered in this course?**

Most states still offer employment prior to certification. This often comes with the stipulation that certification is acquired within a period of time (usually a year). During this period, you'll work as an unlicensed personnel member, clerk, or aide. On-the-job training or Practicum Experiences are a great way to obtain the number of hours required (many states require a minimum number of hours worked before you can be registered or certified with the board). If your goal is to work in a hospital pharmacy, finding that job while you're still a student will help you reach your employment requirements, along with the educational clinical requirements.

**What is a Practicum Experience?**

A Practicum Experience is a practical training program that fulfills the clinical hour requirement of a course. This experience allows you to gain real-world experience in a setting aligned to the job description, working alongside licensed personnel and technicians. You will develop the skills and confidence needed to work effectively as a technician through experience. The Practicum Experience is optional and not required for final grading.

**How do I apply for the Pharmacy Technician Practicum Experience?**

Within the course, you will have the option to apply for an experience and will work with a coordinator to be placed once all eligibility requirements have been met. If you are interested in applying for the Practicum Experience in a local pharmacy that is not a CVS, you may discuss these and other options with your coordinator. Practicum Experiences are optional and based on availability. Due to the increase in confidentiality and privacy regulations and liability issues in relation to health information, Practicum Experiences are not guaranteed.

In addition, by state regulation, you may be required to apply for your pharmacy technician license or register with the State Board of Pharmacy before you can apply for the Practicum Experience. Please check the website for your state's Board of Pharmacy regulations and additional information. The state's Board of Pharmacy has the most accurate and up-to-date information.

**Can I qualify for a Practicum Experience if I have a criminal record?**

Unfortunately, you will not qualify for the Practicum Experience if you have a criminal record. While you can still enroll in the course, to participate in the Practicum Experience Program, you cannot have a criminal record. Background checks will be conducted prior to the student's admittance into the Practicum Experience Program.

**Does this course prepare you for a certification?**

Yes, this course does prepare you for a certification. You will be prepared to sit for the National Certification exam titled Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), offered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

**Can I register for a course if I am an international student?**

Yes, ed2go courses are completely online. However, keep in mind that not all certifying bodies or industry-specific certifications are recognized internationally. Please review your country's regulations prior to enrolling in courses that prepare for certification.

The Pharmacy Lab Kit with the Manual is only available for students who reside in the U.S./Canada; alternative options are available for international students. Delivery times may vary. Please contact us for additional information before enrolling.

**When can I start the course?**

This course is open enrollment, so you can register and start the course as soon as you are ready. Access to your course can take 24-48 business hours.

**What kind of support will I receive?**

The course instructor will be available by email to answer any questions and provide feedback on your performance. Occasionally, your course may be supported by a team of industry experts. You will also receive support from the student advising team.

**What happens when I complete the course?**

Upon successfully completing the course and fulfilling the financial obligation, you'll be awarded a certificate of completion. In addition, you will receive an exam voucher to sit for the National Certification Exam which is the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), offered by Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

**Am I guaranteed a job?**

This course will provide you with the skills you need to obtain an entry-level position in most cases. Potential students should always do research on the job market in their area before registering.