



**Pharmacy Experiences
mainly...
Becoming a Pharmacy Technician**

Julia Jones

Pharmacy and Medicine Peer Advisor

Pharmacy Experiences

- Pharmacy technician
- Working any role in a pharmacy (cashier, etc.)
- Pharmacist shadowing (diversity is good -- don't just shadow a community pharmacist)
- Research
- Clinics or any other volunteer work
- Experiences in leadership, teamwork, diversity, etc.
 - Basically any typical pre-health experience will be good!

What does a pharmacy technician do?

- Pharmacy technicians work closely with pharmacists and other healthcare professionals in settings such as hospitals, clinics, and community pharmacies.
- Roles typically include:
 - Accurately prepare and distribute patient medications
 - Prepare sterile medications
 - Work directly with patients to obtain medication histories
 - Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements
 - and more!

Why become a pharmacy technician?

- Healthcare is adding pharmacy technician jobs -- expected growth is 12% through 2026.
- There are lots of options in your work environment.
- There is opportunity for advancement.
 - Excellent experience for becoming a pharmacist!
- Average pay in CA is \$17.36 / hour.

Pharmacy technician requirements in CA

- CA requires you to possess and keep current registration with the California State Board of Pharmacy to work as a pharmacy technician.
- To apply for a license, you must complete and submit the application for pharmacy technician license (\$80 fee).
- The following are minimum requirements for registering for licensing:
 - Have a high school diploma or GED
 - Meet one of the following education requirements:
 - Complete a PTCB (Pharmacy Technician Certification Board) recognized education/training program.
 - Equivalent work experience as a pharmacy technician (min. 500 hours).

PTCB-recognized pharmacy technician programs in CA

- There are 146 recognized programs in California.
- Most programs can be completed in less than 1 year.
- Tuition prices are on a large spectrum, but most look to be around \$2,000.

Obtaining certification in CA

- **Must take the CPhT (Certified Pharmacy Technician) Certification exam.**
 - Offered year-round at Pearson testing centers.
 - **\$129 fee.**
 - **Computer based exam: 90 questions, 110 minutes.**
 - **Unofficial score will be shown immediately after completion, and an official report will be made in 2-3 weeks after the exam.**
 - **If you pass, you are certified!**
- **Renewal is required every 2 years.**
 - **Complete a minimum of 20 continued education (CE)**

**And then,
GO GET A JOB!**

Questions?