

# Thinking Ahead?

## Pharmacy Technician

Produced by  
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Information and Guidance Team  
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# Learner Services

## What does a Pharmacy Technician?

As a Pharmacy Technician you would select the correct items to make up a prescription, Weigh out ingredients, measure liquids and count out tablets. You would also be expected to make sure prescriptions are legal and accurate; create labels which give information about medicines and how to use them; order new stock using computerised systems.

## Where do they work?

Pharmacy Technician works in the hospitals, health centres and also within the community.

## What skills and personal qualities do they need?

A great pharmacy technician:

- should have excellent communication skills and be able to speak on a professional level with peers and doctors, as well as in laymen's terms to patients;
- is able to communicate with people despite possible language barriers and other factors of diversity;
- has sharp analytical skills and can easily reach conclusions based on information presented by patients and doctors, as well as from new research.

## How do I get into Pharmacy Technician?

To become a pharmacy technician, you'll need to:

- Have 4 GCSEs (A\*-C) including science, maths and English.
- start as a pre-registration pharmacy technician
- do on-the-job training and get a college qualification in [Pharmacy Service Skills](#)
- register with the [General Pharmaceutical Council](#) (GPhC)

You could also become a pharmacy technician through an [apprenticeship](#).

## Where can I study?

Further Study: **Leading to Professional Pharmaceutical Technicians**

Once you are working as a trainee pharmacy technician, you will receive on the job training from your employer. Your training will give you the qualifications you will need to meet the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registration requirements. You will complete a skills based qualification and a knowledge based qualification such as:

## Level 3 (NVQ) Diploma in Pharmacy Services Skills

The training normally takes 2 years to complete and involves a combination of study either at a college or by open learning and practical based work experience. You will usually need to have at least two years of consecutive work.

The Manchester College Tel: 03333 222 333 [www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk](http://www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk)

- Pharmacy Services Btec Diploma Level 3
- Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medical Science Level 3 courses

Trafford College Tel: 0161 886 7070 [www.trafford.ac.uk](http://www.trafford.ac.uk)

- Trainee Pharmacy Technician

Stockport College Tel: 0161 296 5000 <http://www.stockport.ac.uk>

- BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Applied Science

### What are the job prospects for Pharmacy Technician?

Pharmacy Technician is always in demand, meaning there are lots of jobs. Good Pharmacy Technicians can expect excellent job security. Recent figures show that Pharmacy Technician training places are on the increase with 363 commissioned places, an increase of 21% on the previous year. (Source P: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy-technician>)

### OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/registration>

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/pharmacy-technician](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/pharmacy-technician)

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