

Thinking Ahead?

Pharmacy Technician

Produced by
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Information and Guidance Team
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Some information is extracted from the National Careers Service website

Learner Services

Pharmacy Technician

What do they do?

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.

Pharmacy Technician works in the hospitals, health centres and also within the community, ie chemists and pharmacies/pharmacy sections of supermarkets.

Skills Required:

A pharmacy technician should have:

- good Maths, English and IT skills
- accuracy and attention to detail
- the ability to explain instructions clearly to customers
- administration skills for record keeping

How to become a Pharmacy Technician?

To become a pharmacy technician, you'll need 4 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English, maths and science, or [equivalent qualifications](#).

You'll need to look for work as a pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician. Once you've found this, you'll do on-the-job training over 2 years. You'll work towards qualifications which show your knowledge and skills like the:

- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Pharmacy Service Skills
- Level 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science

You'll then need to register with the [General Pharmaceutical Council](#) (GPhC).

You could get into this through an [apprenticeship](#).

You could also start as a pharmacy assistant and work your way up.

As you may be working with children or vulnerable adults, you'll need [enhanced background checks](#) which your employer will arrange for you.

The Association of Pharmacy Technicians (APTUK) has information on [training and career prospects](#).

Where Can I study?

Leading to a 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.tmc.ac.uk
L3 Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medical Science (Access to Higher Education)

Trafford College: Tel: 0161 886 7070 www.trafford.ac.uk
L3 Advanced Apprenticeship for Pharmacy Technicians
L2 Apprenticeship for Dispensing and Pharmacy Assistants

Salford City College: Tel: 0161 631 5000 www.salfordcc.ac.uk
Access to Professions in Science

Job Prospects

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.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/pharmacy-technician

You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that information given is up to date we are aware that information is subject to change. The website links are used to provide further information and are not intended to signify that MAES endorses such websites and their content.