A Pharmacy Technician provides technical services that do not require professional judgment regarding the preparation and distribution of drugs. Pharmacy technicians always work under the direct supervision of Pharmacist and are responsible to a licensed pharmacist. All work performed by a pharmacy technician must be verified for accuracy by a licensed pharmacist.

Responsibilities, Duties & Competencies of Pharmacy Technician frequently include:

- Compounding sterile and non-sterile pharmaceuticals
- Packaging and re-packaging medications
- Utilizing and maintaining various types pharmacy technology
- Performing pharmaceutical calculations
- Preparing and maintaining prescription orders
- Distributing and delivering medications
- Providing great customer service
- Maintaining patient privacy

The practice of pharmacy is continually changing to meet the needs of society. As a result, the pharmacy technician’s role is also changing. Pharmacy Technicians are being relied upon more & more to perform the routine day-to-day functions which free the pharmacist to spend more time providing clinical support to the patient and other healthcare team members. Therefore, educated, highly skilled and well trained pharmacy technicians are essential to the successfully function of the pharmacy.

**Admission Steps**

Are you ready to start the application process for Pharmacy Technician? [Click here](#) to download the admission steps.

**Accreditation Information**

The Pharmacy Technician certificate program conducted at El Paso Community College in El Paso, Texas, is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and Pharmacy.

As a student and graduate of the EPCC Pharmacy Technician certificate training program, accreditation by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is important for several reasons. Accreditation ensures that you are receiving the training and skills that reflect the national standard. Employers recognize that the education you received meets ASHP standards which translate into a well-trained and highly skilled pharmacy technician. Also, as a graduate from an ASHP accredited program, you will meet the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) requirements for IV certification.

**Program Goals**

The El Paso Community College Pharmacy Technician Program goals are based on the objectives found in the [ASHP Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training](https://www.ashp.org/Programs/Pharmacy-Technician-Education-Training) (Rev. 2014), published by the American Society of Health System-Pharmacists. The *Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training* is utilized as a framework to provide detail and guidance on the instructional goals and objectives, learning activities, didactic education, laboratory simulation, and experiential training components upon which ASHP/ACPE Accredited Pharmacy Technician Programs are based.
Program Goals

Personal/Interpersonal Knowledge and Skills

1. Demonstrate ethical conduct in all job-related activities.
2. Present an image appropriate for the profession of pharmacy in appearance and behavior.
3. Communicate clearly when speaking and in writing.
4. Demonstrate a respectful attitude when interacting with diverse patient populations.
5. Apply self-management skills, including time management, stress management, and adapting to change.
6. Apply interpersonal skills, including negotiation skills, conflict resolution, and teamwork.
7. Apply critical thinking skills, creativity, and innovation to solve problems.

Foundational Professional Knowledge and Skills

8. Demonstrate understanding of healthcare occupations and the health care delivery system.
9. Demonstrate understanding of wellness promotion and disease prevention concepts, such as use of health screenings; health practices and environmental factors that impact health; and adverse effects of alcohol, tobacco, and legal and illegal drugs.
10. Demonstrate commitment to excellence in the pharmacy profession and to continuing education and training.
11. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in areas of science relevant to the pharmacy technician's role, including anatomy/physiology and pharmacology.
12. Perform mathematical calculations essential to the duties of pharmacy technicians in a variety of contemporary settings.
13. Demonstrate understanding of the pharmacy technician's role in the medication-use process.
14. Demonstrate understanding of major trends, issues, goals, and initiatives taking place in the pharmacy profession.
15. Demonstrate understanding of non-traditional roles of pharmacy technicians.
16. Identify and describe emerging therapies.
17. Demonstrate understanding of the preparation and process for sterile and non-sterile compounding.

Processing and Handling of Medications and Medication Orders

18. Assist pharmacists in collecting, organizing, and recording demographic and clinical information for direct patient care and medication-use review.
19. Receive and screen prescriptions/medication orders for completeness, accuracy, and authenticity.
20. Assist pharmacists in the identification of patients who desire/require counseling to optimize the use of medications, equipment, and devices.
21. Prepare non-patient-specific medications for distribution (e.g., batch, stock medications).
22. Distribute medications in a manner that follows specified procedures.
23. Practice effective infection control procedures, including preventing transmission of blood borne and airborne diseases.
24. Assist pharmacists in preparing, storing, and distributing medication products requiring special handling and documentation [e.g. controlled substances, immunizations, chemotherapy, investigational drugs, drugs with mandated Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)].
25. Assist pharmacists in the monitoring of medication therapy.
27. Maintain pharmacy facilities and equipment, including automated dispensing equipment.
28. Use material safety data sheets (MSDS) to identify, handle, and safely dispose of hazardous materials.

Sterile and Non-Sterile Compounding

29. Prepare medications requiring compounding of sterile products.
30. Prepare medications requiring compounding of non-sterile products.
31. Prepare medications requiring compounding of chemotherapy/hazardous products.
Procurement, Billing, Reimbursement and Inventory Management

32. Initiate, verify, and assist in the adjudication of billing for pharmacy services and goods, and collect payment for these services.
33. Apply accepted procedures in purchasing pharmaceuticals, devices, and supplies.
34. Apply accepted procedures in inventory control of medications, equipment and devices.
35. Explain pharmacy reimbursement plans for covering pharmacy services.

Patient- and Medication-Safety

36. Apply patient- and medication-safety practices in all aspects of the pharmacy technician's roles.
37. Verify measurements, preparation, and/or packaging of medications produced by other healthcare professionals (e.g., tech-check-tech).
38. Explain pharmacists' roles when they are responding to emergency situations and how pharmacy technicians can assist pharmacists by being certified as a Basic Life Support (BLS Healthcare Provider).
39. Demonstrate skills required for effective emergency preparedness.
40. Assist pharmacists in medication reconciliation.
41. Assist pharmacists in medication therapy management.

Technology and Informatics

42. Describe the use of current technology in the healthcare environment to ensure the safety and accuracy of medication dispensing.

Regulatory Issues

43. Compare and contrast the roles of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in ensuring pharmacy department compliance with professional standards and relevant legal, regulatory, formulary, contractual, and safety requirements.
44. Maintain confidentiality of patient information.

Quality Assurance

45. Apply quality assurance practices to pharmaceuticals, durable and non-durable medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
46. Explain procedures and communication channels to use in the event of a product recall or shortage, a medication error, or identification of another problem.
Career Information

Career Snapshot: Pharmacy Technician
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

- Job opportunities are expected to be far above the national average, especially for those who have completed an ASHP/ACPE accredited training program, are certified, and/or have previous work experience.
- Technicians work in a variety of pharmacy settings including: retail chains, grocery stores, mail-facilities, quality assurance or insurance processing, drug research, sales and marketing, pharmacy automation, informatics, or robotics.
- Technicians may work days, evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays.

About The Profession
Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other healthcare products to patients. Technicians perform a variety of routine tasks to help prepare medication for patients, such as: receive and process prescriptions and refills, count tables, fill and label bottles, customer service, operate a cash register or computer, answer phones, stock shelves, and weight, measure and assemble ingredients used to compound sterile and non-sterile preparations from a recipe. Technicians may also establish and maintain patient profiles, prepare insurance claim forms, deliver medications to various locations within a healthcare facility, stock and troubleshoot automated dispensing machines, and pharmacy robotics, as well as interacting with patients, patient family members and the public, in addition to nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals.

Technicians who work in hospitals, compounding pharmacies, oncology or nuclear pharmacies may perform more advanced tasks including: compounding sterile preparations made from a complex prescription or recipe assemble total parenteral nutrition (TPN) solutions for intravenous administration, prepare chemotherapy, hazardous drugs, or radioactive materials used in the treatment of cancer, or in nuclear medicine activities. These advanced functions generally require the completion of special training or advanced pharmacy specialty certification.

Pharmacy Technicians in Texas
A pharmacy technician is an individual who is registered with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) as a pharmacy technician and whose responsibility in a pharmacy is to provide technical services that do not require professional judgment regarding preparing and distributing drugs, and who works under the direct supervision of and is responsible to a pharmacist. The Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) is responsible for administering the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam. Certification by PTCB alone does not authorize an individual to work in a pharmacy as a pharmacy technician in the State of Texas. Individuals who have taken and passed the PTCB exam may apply to the TSBP for registration as a pharmacy technician. Data Source: Texas State Board of Pharmacy website, May 11, 2016 [https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/Pharmacytechs.asp](https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/Pharmacytechs.asp).

Local Information
Excellent job opportunities exist in El Paso and throughout Texas for qualified pharmacy technicians, across a wide variety of pharmacy practice settings. The average starting pay for technicians locally ranges from $14.00-18.00 per hour depending on experience and qualifications. The median starting pay in El Paso is $15.20 for newly registered technicians. However, technicians who graduate from our ASHP/ACPE accredited certificate program generally start at the higher end of the pay range. There are many opportunities for advancement and professional growth.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Employment 2014</th>
<th>Employment 2024</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Projected Annual Job Openings</th>
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Employment Trends & Wages

Pharmacy technicians have a variety of employment opportunities inside and outside the El Paso area. They can be employed by hospitals, retail pharmacies, clinics, homecare, long-term care, mail order pharmacies, and drug manufacturers.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) projects a 29.3% increase in pharmacy technician job openings in the Gulf Coast Region. Between 2010 and 2020, TWC expects 330 annual pharmacy technician job openings with 205 openings due to replacement while 125 are openings due to growth in the field. The average salary of a pharmacy technician in the Gulf Coast area is $15.41 per hour.

Source: [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org)

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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National Data Source: [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292052.htm#st](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292052.htm#st)

State Data Source: [Texas Wage Information](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292052.htm#st)

EPCC, and the Pharmacy Technician Program does not guarantee, implied or otherwise, that graduates of the program will find employment in the Pharmacy Technician field.
Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the EPCC Pharmacy Technician Program, the student should be able to:

1. A student will demonstrate data entering skills that include precise pharmaceutical calculations to identify correct dosages, translating and processing prescriptions and medication orders, maintaining inventory control, adjudicating different third party insurance claims, and collecting payments and/or initiating billing.

2. A student will demonstrate effective oral, written, and nonverbal communication techniques to provide efficient customer service as a member of the pharmacy team and embody professional ethics and governmental regulations and responsibilities.

3. Demonstrate proper sterile techniques – A student will demonstrate proper sterile and non-sterile techniques to prepare medications in accordance with health care standards.

4. A student will identify the classes, uses, and side effects of prescription and non-prescription medications in order to monitor medication therapy and prevent medication errors.

5. Students will be able to utilize Pharmacy-related information system and computer applications efficiently.

6. Students will be able to implement strategies to prevent medication errors.

Essential Functions

The essential functions outline reasonable expectations of a student to participate and be potentially successful in the Pharmacy Technician Program and in the profession. The pharmacy technician student must be able to function in a variety of classroom, lab and/or clinical situations while maintaining the essential competencies of pharmacy technicians. These requirements apply for the purpose of admission and continuation in the program.

Pharmacy Technician Program Dismissal Policy

Violation of EPCC, or the Pharmacy Technician policies may result in the dismissal of a student. A pharmacy technician student will be dismissed from the program if they are found to have violated any of the following pharmacy technician polices:

- Behavior – Professional
- Confidentiality
- Injuries & Needle sticks
- Safety
- Standards of Practice
- Academic Dishonesty
- Weapons
Examples of other types of behavior that may lead to corrective action and/or immediate dismissal from the Pharmacy Program include:

- Offensive, harassing, abusive, disrespectful, insulting or vulgar language and/or gestures
- Damage, abuse or theft of EPCC, pharmacy technician program or any clinical affiliate property
- Insubordination, including willful negligence or refusal to perform tasks in the manner assigned by instructors, instructional support specialists, preceptors, clinical supervisors, or other authority figures
- Time clock violations or excessive tardiness and absences
- Fighting, threatening violence or horseplay (which may result in injury)
- Sleeping or giving the appearance of sleeping.
- Physical or psychological negligence to faculty, classmates, staff, patients, or guests.
- Failure to follow instructions and/or policies and procedures which may result in serious consequences.
- Sexually suggestive behaviors and/or actions.
- Any possession, use, distribution or abuse of alcohol, un-prescribed drugs, narcotics, or illegal substances on college or clinical property.
- Not following EPCC, or the Pharmacy Technician policies, procedures, guidelines or regulations.
- Disregard for established safety practices in the classroom, lab, or clinic settings
- Failure to protect self, peers, faculty, staff, and patients from actual or potential physical and health hazards.

Failure to disclose any health disorder (physical or psychological) that could potentially interfere with your being able to professionally perform in any academic, laboratory or clinical setting