



# Pharmacy Technician Certificate

## Continuing Education

**Non-credit**                      **Online**  
**160 hours (20 weeks)**

**Contact:**  
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### Program Description

This program will take you into a new career as a Pharmacy Technician. Unlike many other career opportunities that come and go, medical careers are here to stay. Because of the widespread use of medication, Pharmacy Technicians have never been more in demand and the field will continue to grow in the years to come. As a Pharmacy Technician, you will assist the Pharmacist with direct and indirect patient care and assist in the day-to-day operations required to run a pharmacy. Depending on your practice setting, you may fill prescriptions, compound IV's, compound creams and ointments, assist patients with their medical needs, correspond with physicians and nursing staff to assist with patient care, maintain inventories of medications, maintain patient medication profiles, etc. The types of work you can perform and how much you can earn will depend on the state in which you choose to work and whether you are allowed to work as a registered or certified pharmacy technician.

### Curriculum

Pharmacology I-II-III-IV  
Medical Terminology/Human Anatomy I-II-III-IV  
Calculations / Abbreviations  
Drug Classification and Formulations  
Pharmacy Governance  
Pharmacy Practice  
Prescription Dispensing  
Over-The-Counter Products  
Introduction to Computer Systems and Automation  
Interacting with Patients  
Assisting the Pharmacist  
Non-Sterile and Sterile Compounding  
Insurance Processing  
Inventory Control  
Drug Storage, Recalls and Thefts  
Quality Assurance

### Program Fees

Tuition & Fees	\$1,499
Books	Two books to be purchased by student
Other fees	<u>Certification not included</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,499 + books</b>

### Admission Requirements

Basic computer skills  
Access to a computer with Internet access  
Self discipline to complete the program

### Career Potential

Job opportunities are expected to be good, especially for those with certification. The pay rate is \$9.25-\$11.25 per hour. There is need for morning, afternoon, evening, and night technicians. Part-time work is also common and allows flexibility to fit any lifestyle. About 71 percent of jobs are in retail pharmacies, grocery stores, department stores, or mass retailers.

In Iowa, Pharmacy technicians are required to become certified by July 1, 2010. Beginning July 1, 2009, all NEW technicians will have one year to become certified. The cost of the examination is \$130 plus study materials. Data taken from www.bls.gov