

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (PHARM)

Program Description

The Pharmacy Technician (PHARM) certificate program is endorsed by the Washington State Department of Health—Board of Pharmacy. This program will meet or exceed the goals and objectives of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists and the approved Washington State Pharmacy Technicians Training competencies.

The specific goals and objectives of the Pharmacy Technician program are to instruct students about the role of a pharmacy technician so that they may perform that responsibility within the legal limits of the law governing healthcare settings. Students should be able to categorize the top 200 drugs into major therapeutic classifications, distinguish between generic and trade names of drugs, and generally identify accepted drug dosage forms, strengths, routes of administration and dosing intervals. Students will learn to accurately apply mathematical principles required in the preparation and distribution of drugs, and will be instructed on how to correctly interpret prescriptions or medication orders. Students will perform: appropriate inventory control of drug products; prepare medications for review by the pharmacist; comply with pharmacy law, regulations, and ethical standards of practice; operate equipment to document drug dispensing and inventory activities; to bring awareness to the correct preparation of common intravenous admixtures utilizing aseptic technique, required supplies, and compounding equipment.

Job opportunities include hospitals, community pharmacies, grocery store pharmacies, and other retail options. Graduates from this program may apply to the Washington State Department of Health—Board of Pharmacy to become a Washington State Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Entry into the Program

Please apply to the Admissions Office. Students may enter the program at the beginning of Fall quarter and courses must be taken in sequence. To enter the program during Winter or Spring quarters, advanced standing may be requested for prior education or experience with Department Chair approval. For more information, contact the Department Chair or Admissions Office.

Admission Requirements

Entering students must have a high school diploma or GED; be 18 years of age upon the completion of the program to be nationally certified, and must be able to pass a Department of Transportation background check. A certificate in Pharmacy Technician is granted upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements:

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE

Courses must be taken in sequence. Consult with department chair or SVC counselor.

FIRST YEAR

Fall.....Cr	Winter.....Cr	Spring.....Cr
PHARM 130.....4	PHARM 132.....5	PHARM 134.....2
PHARM 131.....3	PHARM 133.....4	PHARM 135.....4
AHE 102.....5	AHE 118.....2	AHE 101.....3
AHE 112.....5	†ENGL 170.....3	AHE 106.....6
	OFTEC 162.....3	AHE 200.....3
Total.....17	Total.....17	Total.....18

SECOND YEAR

Summer.....Cr
PHARM 136.....3
PHARM 137.....3
PHARM 138.....1
SOSC 113.....1
SOSC 125.....2
Total.....10

† Students who do not receive an appropriate test score will require additional coursework to develop necessary skills for entry into class.

Course Descriptions

PHARM 130 Orientation to Pharmacy Practice (4)

Introduction and orientation to the influence that medication laws, standards and regulations have on pharmacy practice and to the concept of quality assurance and its procedures. Presentation of the concept of direct patient care and the pharmacy technician's role in its delivery with emphasis on the roles of pharmacists and technicians. Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in PHARM 131; concurrent enrollment in or completion of AHE 102 and 112 with a minimum C grade.

PHARM 131 Pharmacy Technician Terminology (3)

Emphasis on specific medical terminology related to pharmacy. Focuses on how to interpret prescription or medication orders, including how to interpret medical abbreviations and terminology. Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in PHARM 130, concurrent enrollment in or completion of AHE 102 and 112 with a minimum C grade or Department Chair permission.

PHARM 132 Applied Pharmacology (5)

Use and side effects of prescription medications, nonprescription medications, and alternative therapies commonly used to treat diseases affecting the various systems of the human body including psychiatric disorders. Prerequisite: PHARM 130, PHARM 131; AHE 102 and 112 with a minimum C grade; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 133 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in AHE 118, OFTEC 162 and ENGL 170 with a minimum C grade.

PHARM 133 Pharmacy Records Management (4)

Purchasing pharmaceuticals, devices and supplies, including acquisition in emergency situations. Controlling inventory of medications, equipment, and devices according to an established plan. Introduction to the concept of troubleshooting, maintenance and repairing pharmacy equipment, devices and facilities. Use of various forms of technology for storing, accessing and recording pharmacy data. Includes specialized terminology, filing rules and systems, paper-based and electronic files management, records security, ethical concerns with emphasis on pharmaceutical practical records applications. Prerequisite: PHARM 130 and 131; AHE 102 and 112 with a minimum C grade; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 132, concurrent enrollment in or completion of AHE 118 and OFTEC 162 with a minimum C grade.

PHARM 134 Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs (2)

Covers medications available to patients without prescription, including herbal medications and supplements, cold/flu preparations, gastrointestinal preparations, topical products, etc., and conversion of legend drugs to OTC status. Prerequisite: PHARM 130, 131, 132, 133 with a minimum C grade; AHE 102, 112, and 118; OFTEC 162, ENGL 170 with a minimum C grade; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 135 or concurrent enrollment in or completion of AHE 101, 106, and 200 with a minimum C grade.

**PHARM 135 Community & Hospital
Drug Dispensing/
Management (4)**

Introduction to the role of pharmacy technicians in the community and hospital pharmacy setting. Filling prescriptions under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Discussion and demonstration of sensitivity when working with a multicultural population. Prerequisite: PHARM 130, 131, 132, 133; AHE 102, 112, and 118, ENGL 170, and OFTEC 162 with a minimum C grade; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 134 and concurrent enrollment or completion of AHE 101, 106, and 200 with a minimum C grade.

**PHARM 136 Community Clinical
Experience/Pharmacy
Technician (3)**

Practical experience in the role of a pharmacy technician in a community setting to integrate knowledge and enhance skills. Prerequisite: PHARM 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135 with a minimum C grade; Department Chair approval; concurrent enrollment or completion of SOSC 113 and 125 with a minimum C grade.

**PHARM 137 Hospital Clinical
Experience/Pharmacy
Technician (3)**

Practical experience in the role of a pharmacy technician in a hospital setting to integrate knowledge and enhance skills. Prerequisite: PHARM 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135 with a minimum C grade; Department Chair approval; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 137, 138, current enrollment in or completion of SOSC 113 and 125 with a minimum C grade.

**PHARM 138 Pharmacy Technician
Externship Seminar (1)**

Discussion and critical analysis of student experiences in their various externship placements. Topics include legal concepts, professionalism, and aspects of culture and application of various pharmacy skills. Prerequisite: Completion of PHARM 131, 132, 133, 134, 135; AHE 101, 102, 106, 112, 118, and 200; OFTEC 162; ENGL 170 with a minimum C grade; concurrent enrollment in PHARM 136 or 137 and 138; Department Chair permission; concurrent enrollment in or completion of SOSC 113 and 125 with a minimum C grade.