



Pharmacy Technology Program – Prospective Student Advising Form

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

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PROGRAM PURPOSE:

- To educate and train students to become professional pharmacy technicians capable of providing excellent pharmacy services and patient care in a variety of settings.

ACCREDITATIONS:

- South Texas College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- The pharmacy technician program conducted by South Texas College, McAllen, Texas is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.
- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board-Recognized Program through the ACPE/ASHP accreditation which allows graduates to be eligible for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam.
- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board-Recognized as a Sterile Compounding Education/Training Program.

PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT:

- Nationally Occupation Outlook 2016 to 2026: **12%**
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Pharmacy Technicians, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm> (visited April 12, 2019).

SALARY EXPECTATIONS:

- McAllen, Edinburg, Mission Metropolitan Area median wage: **\$16.21/hour; \$33,710/year** (May 2018, BLS).
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Pharmacy Technicians, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm> (visited April 12, 2019).

PROGRAM GRADUATE PASS RATE:

- Percentage of eligible graduate who attempted and passed the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam.

2019	80%
2018	100%
2017	100%

QUALIFICATIONS TO ENROLL INTO THE PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM:

- Participate in the required Prospective Student Information Session. For the session schedule, access the information online at <http://nah.southtexascollege.edu>.
- Be admitted to the college as a high school graduate, or GED equivalent, except for dual credit students.
- Meet TSI College Readiness Standards, or meet TSI exemption standards. If the student qualifies for an exemption, college-readiness scores for English (Reading and Writing) and Math are required for accreditation purposes.
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all courses completed at STC or, if currently a high school student, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on the high school transcript.
- Be 18 years of age or older for practicum experiences.
- Pass a criminal background check, 10-panel drug screen through approved providers, and complete all required immunizations including Hepatitis B series.
- Satisfy healthcare agency requirements prior to practicum experiences.
- Submit a completed program application.
- Meet the technical standards of the program.

APPLICATION SEASON AND PROGRAM START DATE:

- 1st Monday after Spring Break – 5:00pm Last Friday in May. Application will be posted on Pharmacy Technology Program website. Prospective students should complete the application form and make an appointment with a faculty advisor to submit the completed paper application.
- New cohorts begin annually in August.

PROGRAM ESTIMATED COST:

- Associate of Applied Science: **\$14,258.00**. Financial Aid may be available. Learn more at studentservices.southtexascollege.edu or meet with a Financial Aid Specialist on any South Texas College campus.

PROGRAM DISMISSAL POLICY:

- Students may be dismissed from the Pharmacy Technology program according to the following criteria:
 1. Failure to comply with the clinical standards and standards of professional conduct outlined in the South Texas College Student Handbook/Code of Conduct, the Nursing and Allied Health Division Handbook, and the Pharmacy Technology Program Handbook.
 2. Failure to complete all program courses in a semester with a final course grade of "C" or better.
 3. The Texas State Board of Pharmacy refuses to issue pharmacy technician trainee registration or revokes or suspends pharmacy technician trainee registration at any time during the Pharmacy Technology program course of study.

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Clinical requirements include a criminal background check, current immunization status, clear tuberculosis screen, a drug and alcohol urine screen, current CPR status, current accident/health insurance, meeting technical standards of the Pharmacy Technology Program, and maintenance of a COMPLIO account throughout the program. Find more information at <https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/clinicalaffairs.html>.
- The Texas State Board of Pharmacy requires a separate fingerprint based criminal background check for application as a pharmacy technician trainee. A negative background check performed through South Texas College does not imply the Texas State Board of Pharmacy will not deny pharmacy technician registration if it determines there is an issue in the student's criminal background.
- Illicit drug use, criminal background checks, and immunization status may prevent placement in a practicum site which would prevent graduation from the program and may future employment as a pharmacy technician. Externship (practicum sites), employers, and State Boards of Pharmacy have regulations concerning criminal background, illicit drug use, and immunization status for existing and potential pharmacy personnel.
- Pharmacy Technology Program applicants must be eligible for technician trainee registration through the Texas State Board of Pharmacy or become certified, registered pharmacy technicians in Texas to be enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician Program. Expired Texas technician trainee registrations cannot be renewed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY REGISTRATION:

- Candidates for registration as a pharmacy technician in Texas must submit an application to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, proof of certification by a national organization such as the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) or the National Healthcareer Association (NHA), and fingerprints for a criminal background check.
- South Texas College Pharmacy Technology Program students must apply for registration with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy as a pharmacy technician trainee during the second semester of the program. Texas law requires pharmacy technician students to be registered pharmacy technician trainees to attend practicum in pharmacies registered with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. This trainee registration requires the student to apply to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and submit fingerprints for a criminal background check.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL CERTIFICATION:

- **Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)** requires candidates to:
 1. have a high school diploma or equivalent educational diploma (e.g., GED or foreign diploma) or be within 60 days of completion.
 2. fully disclose all criminal and State Board of Pharmacy registration or licensure actions. Felonies, particularly those involving drugs or alcohol, may prevent individuals from being eligible for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam.
 3. comply with all applicable PTCB certification policies.
 4. achieve a passing score on the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE).
- **National Healthcareer Association (NHA)** awards Pharmacy Technician Certification for candidates who:
 1. are within 60 days or less of completing a high school diploma or equivalent such as a GED or foreign diploma.
 2. complete a pharmacy technician training program offered by an accredited or state-recognized institution or provider, any branch of the U.S. Military, employer, or a national pharmacy association recognized by the respective state's Board of Pharmacy and approved by the candidate's employer.
 3. meets the work experience criteria of 1200 hours of supervised pharmacy related work experience within any 1 year in the last 3 years, if 5 years or more have passed since the candidate completed a training program.
 4. achieves a passing score on the Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians.