

Pharmacy Technology

The Pharmacy Technology curriculum prepares individuals to assist the pharmacist in duties that a pharmacy technician can legally perform and to function within the boundaries prescribed by the pharmacist and the employment agency.

Course work includes and builds upon the domains of health care and pharmaceutical principles. Content emphasizes the pharmacy technician as a member of the interdisciplinary team providing safe, individualized care while employing evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics. Students prepare prescription medications, mix intravenous solutions and other specialized medications, update patient profiles, maintain inventories, package medications and gather data used by pharmacists to monitor drug therapy.

Graduates of this program are eligible to apply to take the certification exam with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Employment opportunities are vast within the global health care system. Employment opportunities include retail, hospitals, nursing homes, research laboratories, and pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities.

For specific information about potential positions and wages in pharmacy technology employment, visit the Central Piedmont Career Coach website.

PHM 110. Introduction to Pharmacy. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course introduces pharmacy practice and the technician's role in a variety of pharmacy settings. Topics include medical terminology and abbreviations, drug delivery systems, law and ethics, prescription and medication orders, and the health care system. Upon completion, students should be able to explain the role of pharmacy technicians, read and interpret drug orders, describe quality assurance, and utilize pharmacy references.

PHM 111. Pharmacy Practice I. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides instruction in the technical procedures for preparing and dispensing drugs in the hospital and retail settings under supervision of a registered pharmacist. Topics include drug packaging and labeling, out-patient dispensing, hospital dispensing procedures, controlled substance procedures, inventory control, and non-sterile compounding. Upon completion, students should be able to perform basic supervised dispensing techniques in a variety of pharmacy settings.

Corequisites: Take PHM 110 and PHM 115

PHM 115. Pharmacy Calculations. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an introduction to the metric, apothecary, and apothecary systems of measurement and the calculations used in pharmacy practice. Topics include ratio and proportion, dosage determinations, percentage preparations, reducing and enlarging formulas, dilution and concentration, aliquots, specific gravity and density, and flow rates. Upon completion, students should be able to correctly perform calculations required to properly prepare a medication order.

PHM 118. Sterile Products. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an introduction to intravenous admixture preparation and other sterile products, including total parenteral nutrition and chemotherapy. Topics include aseptic techniques; facilities, equipment, and supplies utilized in admixture preparation; incompatibility and stability; laminar flow hoods; immunizations and irrigation solutions; and quality assurance. Upon completion, students should be able to describe and demonstrate the steps involved in preparation of intermittent and continuous infusions, total parenteral nutrition, and chemotherapy.

Prerequisites: Take PHM 110 PHM 111, minimum grade of C

PHM 120. Pharmacology I. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course introduces the study of the properties, effects, and therapeutic value of the primary agents in the major drug categories. Topics include nutritional products, blood modifiers, hormones, diuretics, cardiovascular agents, respiratory drugs, and gastrointestinal agents. Upon completion, students should be able to place major drugs into correct therapeutic categories and identify indications, side effects, and trade and generic names.

PHM 125. Pharmacology II. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides a continuation of the study of the properties, effects, and therapeutic value of the primary agents in the major drug categories. Topics include autonomic and central nervous system agents, anti-inflammatory agents, and anti-infective drugs. Upon completion, students should be able to place major drugs into correct therapeutic categories and identify indications, side effects, and trade and generic names.

Prerequisites: Take PHM 120, minimum grade of C

PHM 132. Pharmacy Clinical. 2.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-6.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

Prerequisites: Take PHM 111, minimum grade of C

PHM 133. Pharmacy Clinical. 3.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-9.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

PHM 134. Pharmacy Clinical. 4.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-12.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

PHM 135. Pharmacy Clinical. 5.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-15.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

PHM 136. Pharmacy Clinical. 6.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-18.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

PHM 138. Pharmacy Clinical. 8.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-24.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an opportunity to work in pharmacy settings under a pharmacist's supervision. Emphasis is placed on effective communication with personnel, developing proper employee attitude, and dispensing of medications. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of pharmacy operations, utilize references, dispense medications, prepare patient charges, and efficiently operate computers.

PHM 140. Trends in Pharmacy. 2.0 Credits. Class-2.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course covers the major issues, trends, and concepts in contemporary pharmacy practice. Topics include professional ethics, continuing education, job placement, and the latest developments in pharmacy technician practice. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the topics discussed.

Prerequisites: Take PHM 110, minimum grade of C

PHM 150. Hospital Pharmacy. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides an in-depth study of hospital pharmacy practice. Topics include hospital organizational structure, committee functions, utilization of reference works, purchasing and inventory control, drug delivery systems, and intravenous admixture preparation. Upon completion, students should be able to explain hospital organization/committee functions, interpret and enter patient orders, fill unit-dose cassettes, and prepare intravenous admixtures.

PHM 155. Community Pharmacy. 3.0 Credits. Class-2.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-2.0. Work-0.0

This course covers the operational procedures relating to retail pharmacy. Emphasis is placed on a general knowledge of over-the-counter products, prescription processing, business/inventory management, and specialty patient services. Upon completion, students should be able to provide technical assistance and support to the retail pharmacist.

PHM 160. Pharm Dosage Forms. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course is a study of pharmaceutical dosage forms and considerations in their manufacture. Topics include bioavailability, routes of administration, tablets, capsules, solutions, syrups, suspensions, elixirs, aerosols, transdermals, topicals, ophthalmics, otics, and other dosage forms. Upon completion, students should be able to describe the characteristics of the major dosage forms and explain how these characteristics affect the action of the drug.

PHM 165. Pharmacy Prof Practice. 2.0 Credits. Class-2.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides a general overview of all aspects of pharmacy technician practice. Emphasis is placed on pharmacy law, calculations, compounding, pharmacology, and pharmacy operations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in the areas required for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination.

PHM 265. Professional Issues. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides a comprehensive discussion of topics common to the practice of the pharmacy technician. Emphasis is placed on application of professional competencies including legal/ethical issues, leadership/management concepts and employability skills. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in pharmacy workplace skills and leadership/management roles.

Prerequisites: Take PHM 165, minimum grade of C