

Introduction

This document introduces the nonacademic standards, skills, and performance requirements expected of every student in the Pharmacy Technology Program. It is essential for all students entering the program to understand that these requirements are necessary for the satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and development of professional attributes for graduation. Reading these standards carefully along with a realistic assessment of your own personality, interests, abilities, strengths, and weaknesses will ensure that you end up in a program and career path that is a good fit for you.

Pharmacy Technicians assist in drug preparation, drug storage, drug distribution, drug inventory and required record keeping under the supervision of a Pharmacist. Pharmacy Technicians will have extensive communication with patients, family members, physicians, co-workers, and other healthcare staff throughout their day to day duties. Successful Pharmacy Technicians are alert, observant, organized and responsible. They must have a strong attention to detail, as details are sometimes a matter of life and death.

Pharmacy Technicians may work in hospitals, community or retail pharmacies. They may be required to work shifts to provide 24-hour coverage, including early morning, day, evening and night shifts. Shifts may be 8, 10 or 12 hours in length. Pharmacy Technicians must be able to tolerate physical standing orders and continue to function effectively and compassionately with the sick and injured. Technicians must be able to work despite constant distractions from telephone calls from patients, physicians, health care professionals and other interruptions. Most hospital and retail pharmacies will require the employee to be a Certified Pharmacy Technicians.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following skills fundamental to Pharmacy Technology:

Communication

- Regularly talk and hear (frequently via telephone)
- Regularly communicate orally and in writing using a variety of communication modalities

Motor Coordination

- Regularly use high degree of hand-eye coordination to manipulate pharmaceutical equipment while simultaneously inputting data into a machine

Mobility

- Regularly stand (up to 4 hours at a time or up to 6 hours or more per shift) and walk
- Frequently lift up to 10 pounds, occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds, ability to push rolling carts weighing 300 pounds
- Frequently reach above shoulder level and reach with hands and arms
- Occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, balance, climb (step ladders)

Sensory

- See up close (clear at 20 inches or less) and at further distance (clear at 20 feet or more), have depth perception (three dimensional vision, ability to judge distances and spatial relationships) and color vision (ability to identify and distinguish colors)
- Regularly use hands and fingers to handle and feel

Intellectual

- Be oriented to time, place, and person
- Organize responsibilities and make decisions

Social

- Demonstrate the use of positive coping skills in stressful situations
- Demonstrate calm and effective responses, especially in urgent situations

Professional Behavior

- Maintain academic honesty and integrity
- Act in an ethical manner
- Adhere to the GTCC Pharmacy Technology Handbook