

# Pharmacy Technician – Career Studies Certificate (221-190-08)

**Purpose** The Pharmacy Technician program is designed to prepare students to assist and support licensed pharmacists in providing health care and medications to patients. Students will obtain a broad knowledge of pharmacy practice and be skilled in the techniques required to order, stock, package, prepare, and dispense medications under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. This curriculum has been approved by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to meet the training requirements necessary for pharmacy technician registration.

**Note:** Individuals who have any felony convictions or charges pending, or any crime involving moral turpitude, or a violation of any federal, state, or local drug law may not be allowed to take the Pharmacy Technician licensing exam. The question of eligibility to take the Pharmacy Technician licensing exam cannot be determined until application for licensure is received by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy. If you wish to discuss this issue, please call (540) 857-6285.

**Occupational Objectives** Pharmacy technicians work in hospital, retail, home health care, nursing home, clinic, nuclear medicine, labs, and mail order prescription pharmacies. Pharmacy technicians have been employed with medical insurance, medical computer software, drug manufacturing, drug wholesale, and food processing companies, and as instructors in pharmacy technician training programs. Currently, hospital, home health care, and retail pharmacies hire the majority of technicians.

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for admission to the college.

1. Developmental courses **are** required for students with deficiencies in English and mathematics.
2. High school diploma or the equivalent
3. Completion of Algebra I with a grade of “C” or better by end of Spring semester.

### Curriculum and Other Requirements

		<b>Credits</b>
HLT 106	First Aid and Safety	2
HLT 143	Medical Terminology I	3
HLT 250	General Pharmacology	3
HLT 261	Basic Pharmacy I	3
HLT 263	Basic Pharmacy I Lab	1
HLT 262	Basic Pharmacy II	3
HLT 264	Basic Pharmacy II Lab	1
HLT 266*	Hospital Pharmacy Practice	3
HLT 267*	Retail Pharmacy Practice	3
ITE 115	Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts	3
PSY 120 <sup>1</sup>	Human Relations	3
<b>Total Minimum Credits for Certificate</b>		<b>28</b>

<sup>1</sup> PSY 200 may be substituted.

\* This course has a prerequisite. Prerequisites for all courses are listed in the course description section at the back of the catalog.

### Suggested Course Sequence

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
HLT 106	HLT 262
HLT 143	HLT 264
HLT 250	HLT 266
HLT 261	HLT 267
HLT 263	PSY 120
ITE 115	

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Students who have not completed Algebra I in high school with a “C” or better will be required to take the placement test. Those who do not place above Algebra I (MTH 3) and into Algebra II (MTH 4) or higher on the placement test will be required to take developmental courses.

4. Current high school or cumulative college GPA of 2.25 or higher. Cumulative college GPA is based on 12 or more credit hours in a 12-month period. GPA is calculated at the end of fall semester prior to admissions.

### Admissions Procedure

Upon completing an application to the college and a separate 2010 application to the Pharmacy Technician program, students seeking admission to the Pharmacy Technician program must have official transcripts from all schools and colleges attended (transcripts from VWCC or other Virginia community colleges attended are not required) forwarded to the Health Technology Information Specialist’s office at Virginia Western including transcripts showing completion of a high school diploma or GED.

It is **required** that applicants submit official high school transcripts, GED scores, and **all** official college transcripts in one envelope to the Virginia Western Health Technology Information Office with the Virginia Western application and the Pharmacy Technician application. Applicants are encouraged to see the Pharmacy Technician Advisor for information, evaluation, and advising regarding the program. Early application is encouraged.

Upon receipt of the qualified student’s completed file by the Program Director, the applicant will be contacted for an interview. Interviews typically begin in February for the fall program. Applicants whose credentials are completed by April 30 will be considered by the Pharmacy Technician Admissions Committee.

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Applicants will be notified in writing of the action taken by the committee in late May. If the number of qualified applicants falls below the maximum enrollment, the application deadline may be extended.

**Student responsibilities** Students admitted to the Pharmacy Technician program **must** attend the program orientation, register for all classes, and pay tuition prior to August 1.

1. Final admission is contingent upon documentation of the following: rubella (German measles) screening and/or vaccine, Hepatitis B vaccination, satisfactory criminal background check and negative drug testing (cost for background check and drug testing are at the student's expense).
2. Students are responsible for transportation to and from the retail and institutional pharmacy sites assigned during Internships, HLT 266 and 267.