



Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a pharmacy technician?**

This is NOT just counting pills and labeling bottles. There are many other high skills tasks that pharmacy technicians perform in pharmacy settings such as compounding, IV preparation and much more. A pharmacy technician is an individual working in a pharmacy who, under the supervision of the licensed pharmacist, assists in pharmacy activities that do not require the professional judgment of a pharmacist.

- **How do I know if this is right for me?**

If you are thinking about healthcare, this is a good place for you to start. Pharmacy knowledge is required in every area in healthcare. Nurses, doctors, pharmacists, PAs, PTs are all required to know medications. This will help you build strong background to be in anywhere in the healthcare field. It is a short program with a reasonable cost compares to any other health programs. And you will get to build your network with everyone in the healthcare.

- **What do pharmacy technicians earn?**

Pharmacy technicians has a median wage of \$14.62/hour (\$30,410 yearly) after as little as 1 year of education. But that can vary depends on jobs and/or states, no salary is guaranteed.

- **How long does the program take to complete?**

Full time students can finish the program within 12 months.

- **I am far away from Lexington, KY. Can I do this program online?**

This is NOT an online program. Because of the nature of the profession, there are lots of techniques require hands on practice in order to master your skills. We have a full realistic pharmacy lab on campus for students. This will help students become the best candidates for the workforce and gain the opportunities to get into higher pay grade positions.

- **When do I apply?**

You may submit your BCTC application at any time throughout the year. However, Pharmacy Technology program only accepts students once a year for Fall semester. Make sure you indicate which semester you want to start in your application. It is also important that you choose Pharmacy Technology as your major so that your application will be routed to our Program Coordinator.

- **I have a full time job. Do I have to quit my job to be full time in this program?**

This program has a very flexible schedule. Class meetings twice a week in Fall semester and once a week in Spring semester. So you can still work while being full time in our program.

- **How much does the program cost?**



It costs approximate \$6000 including books and supplies. Please visit [http://bluegrass.kctcs.edu/Costs and Financial Aid/Tuition and Fees.aspx](http://bluegrass.kctcs.edu/Costs_and_Financial_Aid/Tuition_and_Fees.aspx) for detail information.

- **Can I apply for financial aid?**

Yes, our program is approved for financial aid for students who need financial assistant.

- **Do I have a good chance of getting a job when I finish the program?**

The current job outlook for pharmacy technicians is excellent, with 12% growth expected over the next few years. Note that in 2020, it will no longer be possible to sit for the national Pharm Tech Certification Exam unless you have graduated from an accredited program, so this is an excellent time to get ahead of the game by earning your diploma. List of Gainful Employment Disclosures.

- **Is this program accredited?**

BCTC is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, and the Pharm Tech program is currently in the process of obtaining programmatic accreditation by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

- **What will I be qualified to do upon graduation?**

After graduating the student will be able to sit for the national certification exam, and will be qualified to work in any pharmacy in Kentucky, once registered as a pharmacy technician with the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy. Registration is a very simple process that costs \$25, and is renewed annually.

- **What if I want to become a pharmacist?**

The experience gained as a pharmacy technician is extremely valuable when it comes time to apply to pharmacy school, and will let the student know if he/she wants to stay in pharmacy before going through the expense and time required for pharmacy school. To apply to pharmacy school, the student would need several additional courses, including chemistry, physics, calculus, biochemistry, and more.

- **What is “experiential learning”?**

This is the learning that occurs when the student, as part of the pharm tech curriculum, works for credit hours (not pay) in a pharmacy environment. It is a closely supervised activity that allows the student “hands on” learning in a “real” pharmacy situation.

- **May I pick any pharmacy to do my externship?**

Although a student can request a specific pharmacy, there is no guarantee you can pick where you want to do your externship. Externship sites must meet several criteria, and must be approved by the BCTC Pharmacy Technology Advisory Board.