***Yakima Valley College***

***Allied Health Technology Programs***

***Pharmacy Technician***

Yakima Valley College offers a unique approach to obtain a variety of health profession certificates or degrees. Students complete classes delivered in a modular format, providing a distinctive learning environment which fits a variety of learning styles and individualized student schedules. On average 89% of classes are on line.

**Getting Started in Allied Health Core Courses**

1. **Apply for admissions & Financial aid**

* If not already admitted to YVC, a completed application for admission to the college must be submitted.
* Complete your FAFSA on-line at fafsa.gov

1. **Assess-Your Skills**

Take the YVC placement test. Exams are approximately 2-1/2 hours in length, test for readiness, and assist in placement in English and Mathematics classes. There is a small testing fee. A photo ID and your social security number is required. More information and dates/times/locations can be obtained by contacting the Counseling Center at (509) 574-4956.

For entry into the program, you must have the following test placements:

* **Writing-** The student musthave received a score to place in ENGL& 101 or have completedEnglish 095 with a C or better.
* **Reading-** The student must have received a placement score above English 081T or have completed English 081T with a C or better.
* **Math-** The student must have received a placement above MATH 050 or have completed MATH 050 with a C or better to enter Allied Health Core Classes. (***For eligibility into the Pharmacy Technician Program, students must test into MATH 085 or have completed MATH 075 with a C or better.)***

Students receiving scores lower than those listed above must complete developmental courses prior to admission into the program. Meet with an advisor for assistance.

1. **Connect with your Advisor**

* Review your placement scores with your advisor.
* Create an educational plan personalized to your needs.

1. **Register**

* Register for classes in person or on-line at:

[**http://www.yvcc.edu/registration/Pages/default.aspx**](http://www.yvcc.edu/registration/Pages/default.aspx)

* Pay tuition and fees, purchase your books, and . . . Get Started!

**Prerequisites for Allied Health Courses:** Completion of IT 105, *Computer Literacy,* and BT 101, *Beginning Keyboarding,* with a C or better. Students who determine they are proficient in keyboarding, word processing, and internet skills may challenge these courses by successfully completing an examination for each to assess competency level. All students must complete the course or pass the exam to be considered for entry.

***IMPORTANT:***

***Please note- The above process admits you to the beginning core courses for the Allied Health Programs. An additional and separate APPLICATION must be submitted for acceptance into the Pharmacy Technician Program after satisfactory completion of specified coursework. Acceptance into the program will be competitive and is not guaranteed. Please see the Pharmacy Technician Program advisor for assistance with this process.***

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| **Number of Annual Acceptances by Program and Quarter** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Medical Assisting | 30 acceptances annually | 15 each Fall and Spring | | Medical Billing and Coding | 20 acceptances annually | 20 each Winter | | Pharmacy Technician | 20 acceptances annually | 20 each Fall | | Surgical Technology | 10 acceptances annually | 10 each Fall | |

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to assisting you with your educational needs.



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Yakima Valley College

Pharmacy Technician Program

**Program Overview**

Combining convenient on-line instruction, laboratory simulations, and supervised clinical practice, the YVC Pharmacy Technician Program prepares students for a career as a Pharmacy Technician. Instruction includes core courses essential to health care professionals as well as specialty courses in pharmacy technology. A simulation of a pharmacy drug preparation area in the Allied Health Laboratory allows for hands-on practice of essential psycho-motor skills. Clinical practice in hospitals and retail pharmacies provide actual experiences to prepare students for entry level positions in a variety of pharmacy settings.

The YVC Pharmacy Technician Program is 64 credits in length. Students may complete the course of study in four quarters of full time attendance. Limited part-time study is also available. A program application is required, with twenty students accepted annually, using a competitive point system. Upon successful completion of all program courses, the externships, and passage of a final comprehensive examination, the graduate will receive a Certificate in Pharmacy Technician Studies.

The externship is the final program requirement. Students must complete all required coursework at the C level or above to be eligible for the pharmacy experiential site experience. During the externship, the students are placed in a variety of hospital and retail pharmacy settings throughout the region. The students must complete at least 240 hours of practice under the preceptorship of pharmacists certified to precept pharmacy technician students. Scheduled hours may vary to accommodate externship site and/or student needs. YVC provides no salary or stipend to students during this rotation.

Finally, students must take and pass (75% or better) a final comprehensive examination. Students who have completed all required coursework, including the externships, and pass the final comprehensive examination, will be awarded a certificate of completion.

The curriculum of the pharmacy technician program is designed to provide instruction to ensure students meet entry-level competencies for pharmacy technicians as well as prepare them for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). After successful completion of this national exam, graduates will earn the credentials of a nationally recognized Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT).

**Career Overview**

Working under the direction of a licensed pharmacist, Pharmacy Technicians function as a vital member of the health care team to assist in providing health care & medications to patients. Pharmacy Technician duties may include: stocking and inventory of prescription and over the counter medications; maintenance of written or computerized patient medication records; dispense medications; billing for pharmacy services, goods, and prescriptions; compounding medications; preparing sterile intravenous medications; and operating computerized dispensing and/or robotic machinery.

**Working Environment**

Pharmacy Technicians work in clean, organized, well-lighted, and well-ventilated areas. The nature of the job requires prolonged periods standing or walking. Heavy items may need to be lifted or retrieved. Depending upon the location of employment, part-time or full-time hours may include evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays.

**Personal Characteristics**

Pharmacy Technician is a physically and mentally demanding profession. Students must be physically capable of accurately and safely performing the tasks within the program and within the profession. Pharmacy Technician duties require absolute accuracy & precision in both the technical & clerical aspects of the job in order to ensure patient safety. Therefore, an essential characteristic of a Pharmacy Technician is the ability to sustain attention to detail and maintain accuracy even in stressful or emergency situations. For precision, many Pharmacy Technician duties require good manual dexterity. Because Pharmacy Technicians work under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, willingness to take direction is essential, while maintaining the ability to work competently without constant supervision after instruction has been given. Good communication and interpersonal skills are also critical for a Pharmacy Technician, who must interact with other health care professionals on a daily basis. Finally, the professional characteristics of dependability, ability to work within legal and ethical boundaries, and critical thinking skills are fundamental.

**Employment Opportunities**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “Employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow 9 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Increased demand for prescription medications will lead to more demand for pharmaceutical services.”

The BLS lists Washington as the top paying state for pharmacy technicians in 2015 with a median hourly wage of $19.70. Nationally the median wage is recorded as $14.62 giving a yearly salary of $30,410. Job opportunities can be found in retail drug, department, or grocery stores, hospitals, cancer facilities, mail-order pharmacies, and medical clinics.

For more information on the Pharmacy Technician Profession, see the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics website at: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes292052.htm>

**For more information about Pharmacy Technician Program at Yakima Valley Community College, please contact:**

**Allied Health Program Assistant, Tami Rich (509) 574-4913, trich@yvcc.edu**

Pharmacy Technician

**Prerequisites Credits**

IT 105 Computer Literacy 3

BT 101 Beginning Keyboarding 5

**Core Courses**

ENGL& 101 or English Composition I OR 5

PTECH 120 Professional Technical Writing

AH 105 Introduction to Pharmacology 3

AH 119 Medical Terminology 5

AH 110 Human Body in Health and Disease I 5

AH 120 Human Body in Health and Disease II 5

AH 108 Communications and Cultural Concepts 3

In Health Care

AH 140 Medical Law and Ethics 2

AH 155 First Aid/CPR/Blood-Borne Pathogen Training 2

Total 30

**Pharmacy Technician Program Specific Courses**

AHPT 115 Advanced Pharmacology 3

AHPT 120 Pharmaceutical Calculations 3

AHPT 125 Pharmacy Tech Skills I 4

AHPT 140 Pharmacy Law 1

AHPT 170 Pharmacy Tech Skills 2 5

AHPT 175 Pharmacy Tech Skills 3 6

**Practicum**

AHPT 201 Pharmacy Externship 8

AHPT 203 Pharmacy Technician Review 4

Total 34

Pharmacy Technician

### Sample Course Sequence for Certificate in the Pharmacy Technician Program

**(schedule may vary)**

**SPRING/SUMMER QUARTER**

**Course Credits**

AH 110 Human Body in Health and Disease I 5

AH 119 Medical Terminology 5

AH 155 First Aid/CPR/Blood-Borne Pathogen Training 2

PTECH 120 or Professional Technical Writing OR 5

ENGL& 101 English Composition I

Total 17

**FALL QUARTER**

AH 105 Introduction to Pharmacology 3

AH 108 Communications and Cultural Concepts in 3

Healthcare

AH 140 Medical Law and Ethics 2

AHPT 140 Pharmacy Law 1

AHPT 120 Pharmaceutical Calculations 3

AHPT 125 Pharmacy Tech Skills I 4

Total 16

**WINTER QUARTER**

AH 120 Human Body in Health and Disease II 5

AHPT 115 Advanced Pharmacology 3

AHPT 170 Pharmacy Tech Skills II 5

AHPT 175 Pharmacy Tech Skills III 6

Total 19

**SPRING QUARTER**

AHPT 203 Pharmacy Technician Review 4

AHPT 201 Pharmacy Externship 8

Total 12

Program Total 64

All prerequisite and core courses must be completed with a C/72% or better. Program courses must be completed with a C/75% or better in order to earn a pharmacy technician certificate for program completion.

**Part-time course sequence must be scheduled by meeting with a Pharmacy Technician Program Advisor.**