



# Pharmaceutical technician

## Description

Pharmacies offer a wide spectre of medicines, supplements, medical devices, diagnostic devices, cosmetic products and other products. Pharmaceutical technicians assist the buyers providing them competent advice about medicines and how to use them, about some specific health issues; they are in charge of receiving and storing medical devices and medicines and their distribution in the pharmacy. Besides working in the pharmacy, pharmaceutical technicians work in the production in pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry where they follow the work process and the good working order of the equipment, implement the quality assurance policy and hygiene and technical policy, carries out the control of raw materials and oversees the production work. An important segment of the production work is the keeping of documentation and records about production, the entry/exit of materials and raw materials, as well as keeping laboratory documentation about the findings of analyses. Pharmaceutical technicians may also work in a laboratory, in the processes of examining the substances and preparing the drugs, where they follow strictly defined procedures to carry out examinations, mix and dose the substances, and keep records about the findings that are made. Compliance with OHS measures and wearing suitable PPE is a very important aspect of their work.

Regardless of their field of work, pharmaceutical technicians need to possess a wide spectre of knowledge and competences. The requirements vary depending on the field of work. Thus, to work in a pharmacy you need to have good communication skills and willingness to help, and work in a laboratory requires preciseness and accuracy, as well as deftness in handling the raw materials, and a good sight. You also need to have teamwork and organisation skills to be able to do this job well. Pharmaceutical technicians work indoors, mainly in shifts.

## Desirable traits/requirements

- Good communication skills i willingness to help
- Patience and empathy
- Responsibility and consciousness
- Preciseness and reliability
- Good sight and deftness
- Flexibility
- Being organised
- Teamwork skills

## Positive aspects:

- Pharmaceutical technicians do a versatile job; they have different fields of work and opportunities for learning and career advancement. Due to the increase of average life duration and need for drugs and medicinal preparations, the need for specialists in this field is growing.

## Negative aspects:

- The job of a pharmaceutical technician is demanding and responsible. Depending on the place of work, you may work on weekends and during holidays. Communication with customers can be demanding. It is necessary to be willing to learn continuously.

## Career path/field of work

To do the job of the pharmaceutical technician, you need to finish a four-year secondary vocational school.

Pharmaceutical technicians work in private and state-owned pharmacies, laboratories, and in the production in pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry.