

Pharmacy Technicians

SOC: 29-2052 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$43,460

Median Salary

490,400

Employment

+6.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.3/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.4/10	Investigative	8.6/10
Artistic	4.8/10	Social	9.0/10
Enterprising	5.4/10	Conventional	6.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Customer-service skills, Detail oriented, Listening skills, Math skills, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Pharmacy Technicians are healthcare support professionals who assist pharmacists in **preparing, dispensing, and managing medications safely and accurately**. They play a critical role in ensuring patients receive the correct medications, dosages, and instructions while maintaining compliance with healthcare regulations. Their work supports efficient pharmacy operations and patient safety across retail, hospital, and clinical settings.

This career is well suited for individuals who are detail-oriented, organized, and interested in healthcare without direct clinical diagnosis responsibilities.

What Do Pharmacy Technicians Do?

Pharmacy technicians support daily pharmacy operations under the supervision of licensed pharmacists.

Common responsibilities include:

- Preparing and labeling prescription medications
- Measuring, counting, and mixing medications accurately
- Receiving and processing prescription orders
- Managing medication inventory and restocking supplies
- Entering patient and prescription data into pharmacy systems
- Communicating with patients and healthcare providers
- Following safety, privacy, and regulatory requirements

Types of Pharmacy Technician Roles

Pharmacy technicians may specialize based on work setting:

- Retail Pharmacy Technicians: Work in community pharmacies assisting walk-in patients.
- Hospital Pharmacy Technicians: Prepare medications for inpatient care units.
- Compounding Technicians: Mix customized medications under strict guidelines.
- Mail-Order Pharmacy Technicians: Process large volumes of prescriptions.
- Specialty Pharmacy Technicians: Support complex or high-cost medication therapies.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Pharmacy technicians combine technical accuracy with communication and organization.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Certification Pathway

Requirements vary by state, but typically include:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Minimum requirement
- Pharmacy Technician Training Program (common): Certificate or diploma
- On-the-Job Training: Learning pharmacy-specific workflows
- Certification (often required or preferred): National pharmacy technician credentials
- State Registration or Licensure: Required in many states

Where Do Pharmacy Technicians Work?

Pharmacy technicians are employed across healthcare and pharmaceutical settings:

- Retail and Community Pharmacies
- Hospitals and Health Systems
- Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

- Mail-Order and Specialty Pharmacies
- Government and Military Healthcare Facilities

Work environments may include standing for long periods and handling medications under controlled conditions.

How Much Do Pharmacy Technicians Earn?

Earnings vary by experience, certification, and setting:

- Entry-Level Pharmacy Technicians: Typically earn hourly wages
- Certified or Experienced Technicians: Often earn higher pay
- Hospital or Specialty Technicians: May earn more due to advanced responsibilities

Compensation may include healthcare benefits and shift differentials.

Is This Career Difficult?

Pharmacy technician work requires high accuracy and sustained concentration. Mistakes can impact patient safety, so technicians must follow procedures carefully and manage workload pressure. The challenge lies in balancing speed, precision, and compliance in busy pharmacy environments.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Pharmacy Technician?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are detail-oriented and methodical
- Are interested in healthcare and medications
- Prefer structured, procedure-driven work
- Communicate well with patients and staff
- Want a stable healthcare support role

How to Prepare Early

- Take science and math courses
- Learn basic medical and pharmaceutical terminology
- Develop strong organization and accuracy habits
- Explore pharmacy technician training programs
- Seek entry-level healthcare or retail pharmacy experience

Pharmacy technicians support safe and effective medication use by transforming prescriptions into accurately prepared treatments—serving as a vital link between pharmacists, healthcare teams, and patients every day.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm>