

Career Focus on...

# Pharmacy Technician

## Introduction

- Are you conscientious?
- Do you have a strong attention to detail?
- Do you have excellent customer service skills?
- Are you well organized and able to balance multiple priorities?
- Do you have the patience to tolerate a busy day while providing quality care?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider a career as a Pharmacy Technician.

## Did You Know... ?

- Employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to grow by 32 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- QCC’s program provides a great opportunity for students to gain entry-level employment in healthcare, while providing additional foundational skills for today’s healthcare field.
- If students complete QCC’s Pharmacy Technician Certificate, maintain a GPA of 3.0 and meet the admission requirements of a healthcare program, they will be guaranteed admission on a space available basis.

## Pharmacy Technician @ QCC

The Pharmacy Technician Certificate program provides students with the knowledge needed to prepare for a career as a pharmacy technician.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- Gain knowledge regarding the laws of pharmacy practice.
- Learn drug names and classification, compounding, calculations, abbreviations and dosage forms.
- Perform various pharmacy technician duties.
- Refine communication and interview skills.
- Assist the pharmacist as directed.

## Career Options

### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Median Annual Salary: \$28,400

Recommended Education: H.S. Diploma, postsecondary non-degree award (certificate) preferred

[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm)

## Worcester Area Employers

- CVS Pharmacy
- Reliant Medical Group
- Rite Aid
- Stop & Shop Pharmacy
- UMass Memorial Medical Center
- Walgreens

## Professional Associations

- American Association of Pharmacy Technicians:  
[www.pharmacytechnician.com](http://www.pharmacytechnician.com)
- Pharmacy Technician, ACPE Resources:  
[www.acpe\\_accredit.org/technicians/resources.asp](http://www.acpe_accredit.org/technicians/resources.asp)

## Next Steps

Wondering if the Pharmacy Technician Certificate is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:  
[www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success](http://www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success)
- Speak with an Advisor:  
[www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Pharmacy Technician Certificate courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012 Edition*:

- Pharmacy Technicians:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/pharmacy-technicians.htm)

O\*NET Online:

- 29-2052.00-Pharmacy Technicians:  
[www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2052.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2052.00)

Quinsigamond Community College, Online Course Catalog:

- Pharmacy Technician Certificate  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/pharmacy-technician](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/pharmacy-technician)

## Employment, Co-op, Internship, or Service

### Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Services Office:  
[www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services](http://www.QCC.edu/services/career-placement-services)

### Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to:  
[transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)

*Quinsigamond Community College is part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, which brings together Massachusetts' 15 community colleges, the Commonwealth's adult basic education and workforce development systems, career centers and industry stakeholders to change the way education and skills training are delivered and to prepare dislocated and under-skilled workers for the emerging, knowledge-based economy. As part of the initiative, Quinsigamond Community College supports students along efficient career pathways by helping them attain degrees, certificates and industry recognized credentials through accelerated programs linked closely to industry need. The statewide initiative is supported by a \$20 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration TAACCCT. Grant Agreement #TC-22505-11-60-A-25.*