

greater use of medication by the population as a whole. There are also an increased number of middle aged and elderly people who tend to use more prescription drugs than do younger people. Another reason for greater employment opportunities for pharmacy technicians is the expansion of retail pharmacies and other employment settings.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of
Pharmacy Technicians

P.O. Box 1447

Greensboro, NC 27402

Phone: (877) 368-4771

Phone: (336) 275-1700

Fax: (336) 275-7222

Web: www.pharmacytechnician.com

American Pharmaceutical Association

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20037-2985

Phone: (800) 237-2742

Phone: (202) 628-4410

Web: www.aphanet.org

Mississippi Pharmacists Association

341 Edgewood Terrace Drive

Jackson, MS 39206

Phone: (601) 981-0416



MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)

P.O. Box 16444

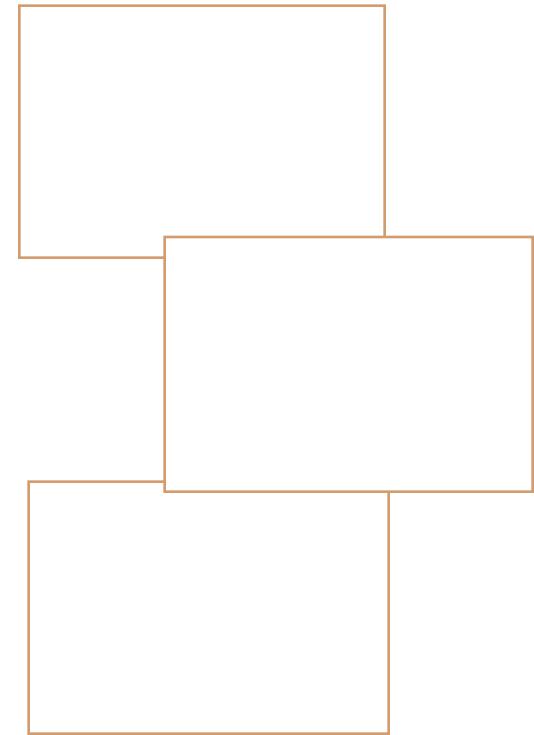
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444

PHONE (601) 982-3251

FAX (601) 368-3200

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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Pharmacy technicians assist licensed pharmacists by performing duties that do not require the professional skills and judgments of a board certified pharmacist. These duties include preparing prescriptions, ordering supplies maintaining patient records and billing, and maintaining inventory. Pharmacy technicians may also be called upon to mix pharmaceutical preparations under the direction and supervision of the pharmacist. They are also responsible for assisting in the care and cleaning of pharmacy equipment. This may include sterilizing bottles, beakers, and other glassware according to prescribed methods. Another important role of a pharmacy technician is to receive and screen prescription drug orders for completeness and accuracy. This increases the need for a pharmacy technician to be able to prepare and distribute medications in a variety of health system settings. They need to have a broad knowledge of pharmacy practice and be able to use pharmaceutical and medical terms, abbreviations, and symbols appropriately.

Pharmacy technicians are even sometimes called on to deliver prepared medications and run errands for the supervising pharmacist.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Pharmacy technicians typically work in community and chain pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, home health care pharmacies, and other health maintenance organizations.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Individuals interested in a career as a pharmacy technician should be exposed to subjects in algebra, biology, chemistry, computer skills, health occupations/medical professions education, history, English, and geometry.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering a pharmacy technician program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. These programs are often two years in length and offer an Associate's Degree. There is also training available to become state or nationally certified. Students interested in pharmacy technology should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Jones County Junior College
900 South Court Street
Ellisville, MS 39437
Phone: (601) 477-4000
Web: www.jcjc.cc.ms.us

MS Gulf Coast Community College
JD Campus
2226 Switzer Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 896-3355
Web: www.mgcc.cc.ms.us

SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$20,800
Salary Range--\$15,000-\$25,000

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities for pharmacy technicians look extremely good especially for technicians with formal training or previous experience. Demand for pharmacy technicians is expected to grow by more than 36% through the year 2010. This growth is due to increased pharmaceutical needs of a larger and older population and the