

Pharmacy Technician

Certificate of Technical Studies

Program Director: Pamela Christianson

This program is offered online (except for the on-site clinical)

Program Application (http://gfcmsu.edu/webs/documents/Pharmacy_Tech_Application.pdf) (Fall 2017 Application available March 15th)

Gainful Employment Programs Information - Certificate of Applied Science (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/gepi/pharmcas/pharmcas.html>)

Gainful Employment Programs Information (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/gepi/pharmcts/pharmcts.html>) - Certificate of Technical Studies (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/gepi/pharmcts/pharmcts.html>)

As a pharmacy technician, you help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other health care products to patients. Technicians usually perform routine tasks to help prepare medication, such as counting tablets and labeling bottles. They also perform administrative duties, such as answering phones, stocking shelves, and operating cash registers. Any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters are referred to the pharmacist. When you complete this program you will have the skills and knowledge required for an entry-level pharmacy technician position and will be prepared to take the national certification exam. Courses are online with an on-site clinical component and can be completed in as little as one, 16-week semester.

The Great Falls College MSU Pharmacy Tech Program is a limited enrollment program, accepting a 23 of students each year. Interested students are urged to contact the Program Director or the Advising & Career Center Advisors for student advising specific to program admission requirements and criteria for program acceptance.

Job Opportunities:

About 72 percent of pharmacy technicians work in retail pharmacies that are independently owned or part of a drugstore chain, grocery store, department store, or mass retailer. The other 18 percent are employed in hospitals, and a small proportion work in mail-order and Internet pharmacies, offices of physicians, pharmaceutical wholesalers, and the federal government.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts the employment of pharmacy technicians to increase by 32 percent from 2006 to 2016, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The 2008 median hourly wage in Montana was \$13.78/hr with a median annual salary of \$24, 289.

Outcomes

Graduates are prepared to:

- Describe the use of current technology in the healthcare environment to endure the safety and accuracy of medication dispensing.
- Compare and contrast the roles of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in ensuring pharmacy department compliance with professional standards and relevant legal, regulatory, formulary, contractual, and safety requirements.
- Practice as a qualified, licensed pharmacy technician working with pharmacists to provide medication and other healthcare products to patients.

- Demonstrate positive work ethic, professionalism, and appropriate interpersonal skills whether in a hospital, clinical, or retail setting.
- Demonstrate knowledge of medical terminology, pharmacy calculations, ethics, pharmacology, and healthcare delivery methods pertaining to pharmacy law, practice, and calculations.

Estimated Cost

Estimated Resident Program Cost*

Tuition and Fees	\$3,190
Application Fee	\$30
Montana Board of Pharmacy Licensing Fee	\$60
Books/Supplies	\$798
Total	\$4,077

* **Fall 2016 MUS Student Health Insurance Premiums will be changing. Please check the Health Insurance website (<http://students.gfcmsu.edu/insurance.html>) and/or Student Central for confirmed premium rates. Students will be charged an additional fee of \$21 per credit for online/hybrid courses.**

Program Requirements

Many students need preliminary math and writing courses before enrolling in the program requirements. These courses may increase the total number of program credits. Students should review their math and writing placement before planning out their full program schedules.

Note: In order to be accepted into the Pharmacy Technician program, students must place into M 090 or higher, either by placement testing or by passing M 065 with a grade of B- or higher.

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
First Year			
Fall			
Prerequisite Courses			
AHMS 144	Medical Terminology +	3	_____
CAPP 120	Introduction to Computers +	3	_____
HTH 180	Pharmaceuticals for HC Provdrs +	1	_____
PHAR 100	Intro Pharm Practice for Techs +	2	_____
PHAR 101	Pharmacy Calculations +	3	_____
WRIT 122	Intro to Business Writing **,+	3	_____
Credits		15	
Spring			
Program Course Requirements After Formal Acceptance			
AHMS 105	Health Care Delivery +	2	_____
PHAR 112	Pharm Practice Law and Calcs **,+	4	_____
PHAR 198	Internship **,+	4	_____
PHL 221	Intro Philosophy & Biomed Ethcs +	3	_____
Credits		13	
Total Credits		28	

* Indicates prerequisites needed.

** Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.

+ A grade of C- or above is required for graduation.