



## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Lisa Homburg, R. Ph.  
Assistant Professor  
Pharmacy Technician Program  
409-933-8685  
[lhomburg@com.edu](mailto:lhomburg@com.edu)



### **ASHP Accredited and PTCB-Recognized**

College of the Mainland's Pharmacy Technician Program was awarded accreditation in 2009 by the **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists** and was most recently reaccredited for an additional 6 years in 2022. This is a prestigious award given only to programs which meet the highest standards of excellence in the field of pharmacy education. We are dedicated to maintaining this high standard and continue to develop our curriculum to include the most current information in pharmacy technician education to prepare entry level graduates. The Pharmacy Technician Program is also recognized by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

College of the Mainland is accredited by **the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges** to award associate degrees and certificates.

### **Purpose of Training**

The purpose of the College of the Mainland's Pharmacy Technician Program is to develop graduates with the knowledge, skills, and professional attitude to obtain employment and to be successful in the pharmacy technician profession. Pharmacy technicians are a vital part of the healthcare industry and assist pharmacists in providing medication and other healthcare products to patients. This program provides each student with a series of courses combining lectures, self-instructional aides, laboratory practices, internet exploration, and practical work experience. The program has been designed to help prepare the student to pass the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam while also providing all the skills necessary for successful employment in the field of pharmacy. National certification and state registration are required of technicians by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

Financial Aid is available for the Pharmacy Technician Program at College of the Mainland. For eligibility and more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid office at 409-933-8274.

College of the Mainland complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is in the Student Success Center.

### **Career – Growing Field**

Careers as a pharmacy technician are very diverse and challenging. Pharmacy technicians provide customer service by assisting the pharmacist. This includes preparation of new and refill prescriptions, inventory control, processing sales, and exceptional customer relation skills. Employers in the industry are looking for nationally certified applicants who have attended an accredited educational pharmacy technician program which includes an internship experience in a pharmacy setting. Hospital employers prefer applicants to be certified in the preparation

of sterile compounds. Employment opportunities are growing faster than ever. According to the US Department of Labor's [CareerOneStop](#), the employment of pharmacy technicians in Texas is projected to grow 24 percent between 2020 and 2030. This is due to the increased pharmaceutical needs of a larger and older population, higher rates of chronic disease, the expanding role of patient care activities extended by pharmacists, and the expanding role of pharmacy technicians

### **Career Opportunities**

Hospital Pharmacy  
Retail Chain  
Home Health Care  
Nursing Home /Long Term Care  
Internet Pharmacy

State & Federal Prison  
Nuclear Pharmacy  
Independent Community  
Indian Health Services  
Home I.V. Infusion

Warehouse Wholesalers  
Drug Manufacturers  
Mail Order Pharmacy  
Specialty Clinics  
Automation Robotics

### **Salary Range**

#### **Median Pay**

\$37, 430 per year

\$18.00 per hour

These statistics are from the US Department of Labor's [CareerOneStop](#) for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area, for 2021.

### **Regulatory Issues**

Students must hold a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Students must be in good physical and mental health.

Students must have a current TB skin test done within 12 months of attending their experiential portion with a negative result and provide a record of the results. This test is usually done in the Fall semester while enrolled in the program. If a student has a false positive result, they must provide a medical statement and X-ray taken within 5 years or a blood draw QuantiFERON within 12 months.

Students must obtain a seasonal flu immunization during the Fall semester while enrolled in the program, prior to performing the experiential rotations and provide a record of this immunization.

Students must be able to provide documentation of MMR, Tdap, and varicella vaccines or titers.

Students must be able to provide documentation of the Hepatitis B vaccine 3-dose series or titers or sign a waiver declining immunization.

Students may be required by externship sites to obtain COVID vaccinations.

Students must undergo a 10-panel drug screen through a vendor designated by the college and results must be sent directly to the college. Illicit drug use/drug abuse may prevent licensure and/or future employment as a pharmacy technician, as employers, externship sites, and State Boards of Pharmacy have regulations concerning illicit drug use.

Students must undergo a criminal background check through a vendor designated by the college and results must be sent directly to the college. A criminal background may prevent licensure and/or future employment as a pharmacy technician, as employers, externship sites, and State Boards of Pharmacy have regulations concerning criminal backgrounds.

### **Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens**

**\*\*\*Do not complete the criminal background or drug screen until directed to do so by the College of the Mainland Pharmacy Technician Program.\*\*\***

Successful completion of a criminal background check and a drug screen is required for full admission and continuation in the Pharmacy Technician Certification Program. This background check is in addition to the background check and fingerprinting required by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. The criminal background check and the drug screen will be conducted at an agency designated by College of the Mainland and will be the financial responsibility of the student. Results will be sent directly to the Pharmacy Technician Program. Results will be accepted for the duration of the student's enrollment in the Pharmacy Technician Program as long as the student does not experience a break in enrollment or any disqualifying allegations or convictions while enrolled.

**Criminal Background Check:** [www.castlebranch.com](http://www.castlebranch.com) Package Code: OK42bg \$31.40

**10-Panel Drug Test:** Wellnow Health, 676 FM 517 West, Dickinson, TX 77539 \$25.00  
409-572-2535

**Notice to Students Regarding Licensing:** Effective September 1, 2017, HB 1508 amends the Texas Occupations Code Section 53 that requires education providers to notify potential or enrolled students that a criminal history may make them ineligible for an occupational license upon program completion. The following websites provide links to information about the licensing process and requirements: (<https://www.ptcb.org/get-certified/apply-for-cpht#.W34ziOhKjIU>, <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/> and [https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/files\\_pdf/Licensure%20QA.pdf](https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/files_pdf/Licensure%20QA.pdf)).

Should you wish to request a review of the impact of criminal history on your potential Pharmacy Technician Certification and Texas State Board of Pharmacy Registration prior to or during your quest for a degree, you can visit this link and request a "Criminal History Evaluation": (<https://www.ptcb.org/> and <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/>).

COM is providing this information to all persons who apply or enroll in the program, with notice of the requirements as described above, regardless of whether or not the person has been convicted of a criminal offense.

### **Technician Trainee Registration**

**\*\*\*Do not apply for the Trainee Registration with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy until directed to do so by the College of the Mainland Pharmacy Technician Program during the first week of class \*\*\***

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy has implemented requirements for Pharmacy Technician Trainees to register with the Board prior to working or gaining experiential hours in any pharmacy setting. As a part of the registration process, Technician Trainees must pass a **criminal background check and fingerprinting session** conducted by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. **This is in addition to the background check that you are required to submit for admission to COM's Pharmacy Technician Program.** **This Trainee Registration is only valid for 2 years and is non-renewable.** This means that once you register, you have limited time to complete the experiential requirements of the program.

## Eligibility Requirements to Apply for an Initial Pharmacy Technician Trainee Registration

A pharmacy technician trainee must have ONE of the following:

- A high school diploma
- An equivalent diploma (e.g., GED),
- Be working to achieve a high school diploma or equivalent for no more than 2 years

A pharmacy technician trainee must be able to complete the application that will, at minimum, request the following information:

- Full Legal Name
- Mailing Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number

-Students applying for a pharmacy technician trainee registration must have:

- a social security number and
- a driver's license or state-issued ID

Applicants must also be fingerprinted for a background check. **There are no exceptions.**

Once advised to do so, during the first week of class, students must submit an online application to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy through the following link: <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/applicants/tech-trainee.asp> to apply to for an Initial Pharmacy Technician Trainee Registration:

**Step One:** Complete the **Online Initial Pharmacy Technician Trainee Application**.

NOTE: There is a \$55.00 application fee.

**Step Two:** Obtain and Complete the Fingerprint Session with the TSBP Service Code

Upon completing the online application, the applicant must obtain and complete the fingerprinting process with the approved Vendor. Instructions regarding this process are sent in the automatic email once the online application is submitted. NOTE: You have not completed the process of registration until you have ***paid and physically completed the fingerprinting process***. Once fingerprinted, your status should be listed as “PENDING” on the TSBP website. Failure to pay, to complete the fingerprinting submission, to provide a valid SSN, to disclose criminal background history and/or a criminal history, and failure to complete the registration process accurately may cause your registration application to be significantly delayed.

NOTE: There is a separate \$45.00 fee for the Fingerprinting Session that will be obtained by the approved vendor.

**If a student has a “background” or criminal history, the state may not issue a trainee or technician registration and therefore, the student would not be able to work in any pharmacy in the state of Texas. These cases are decided by the state board on a**

**case-by-case basis and can take up to 4 to 6 months. Faculty and instructors within the College of the Mainland are neither qualified nor able to answer questions concerning eligibility for Technician Trainee Registration.**

Guidelines used by the Board for the granting of registration when items appear on a criminal background can be found at [https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/files\\_pdf/sanctions.pdf](https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/files_pdf/sanctions.pdf) . Please read these guidelines carefully. If, after reviewing these guidelines, you have questions concerning your criminal background and eligibility, please contact the Texas State Board of Pharmacy directly. You may contact the Board online at: [www.pharmacy.texas.gov](http://www.pharmacy.texas.gov); their phone number is (512) 305-8000.

If items appear on your background, you may be contacted by the State Board of Pharmacy to supply further information or to appear personally before the Board. This process can be lengthy and time consuming. You may wish to seek legal representation as a part of this process.

### **Step Three: Checking the Status of Your Application**

Allow a minimum of **SIX** weeks\* for the application to be reviewed and processed. Once approved, a registration number is issued with an ACTIVE status. An applicant can NOT perform ANY Technician Trainee duties until a registration number has been assigned with an active status. Registrations can be verified online using the [license verification search](#).

\*Any applicant that has any criminal history or prior disciplinary action may have a longer processing time as the application will have to be reviewed by TSBP Enforcement Staff. More information regarding this review can be found under [Disclosure of Criminal History](#). This review may take up several months to be completed.

Once available, you may [print your registration certificate](#) from the TSBP website and provide to the Program Director. This proof will be verified and become a part of the student's program records.

## **Curriculum**

The following is a list of courses that comprise College of the Mainland's Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program. The curriculum is designed for students attending full-time at College of the Mainland. The 2-semester program is offered during the day beginning each fall semester. The certificate program consists of 30 credit hours.

### **First Semester**

PHRA 1301/Introduction to Pharmacy  
PHRA 1309/Pharmaceutical Mathematics I  
PHRA 1441/Pharmacy Drug Therapy and Treatment  
PHRA 1449/Institutional Pharmacy

### **Second Semester**

PHRA 1243/Certification Review  
PHRA 1347/Pharmaceutical Mathematics II  
PHRA 1404/Pharmacotherapy and Disease  
PHRA 1445/IV Admixture and Sterile Compounding  
PHRA 2360/Clinical: Pharmacy Internship

## **Graduation Requirements**

To be eligible to receive the Pharmacy Technician Certificate from College of the Mainland, a student must be successful in the following:

1. Student must make a C or better in all required pharmacy program courses.
2. Student must complete all internship hours in both hospital and community pharmacy sites. (total of 160 hours). All mandatory internship paperwork must be completed and turned in on time.
3. Student must obtain a C or better on the internship site evaluation form from the evaluating pharmacist.
4. Score 75 or better on capstone exam in PHRA 1243 Review course.

## **Dismissal Policy**

College of the Mainland is committed to assisting students to be successful in the pharmacy technician program. Students who are not meeting the course objectives in class or in clinical externships will be apprised of their performance and improvement or remediation plans will be developed to assist the student to stay in the program. Unacceptable behaviors or actions, as listed below, will receive a verbal warning. Subsequent infractions will receive a written warning leading up to dismissal from the program. Students in disagreement with any disciplinary action may follow the College of the Mainland's grievance policy as outlined in the catalog.

- Unsatisfactory clinical performance
- Unsatisfactory clinical or classroom attendance and punctuality.
- Inability to maintain physical and mental health necessary to function in the program
- Unethical, unprofessional, and/or unsafe clinical behavior
- Refusal to participate with a procedure
- Unsafe or unprofessional clinical practice that compromises the patient or staff safety
- Behavior which compromises clinical affiliations
- Failure to comply with all terms outlined in a remediation plan/contract
- 

Some situations do not allow for the discipline process due to severity, nature, or timing. Incidents of this nature may require the student to be immediately dismissed from the program. Examples of these include, but are not limited to:

- Violations of patient confidentiality
- Academic dishonesty
- Falsification of documentation
- Unprofessional behavior/unsafe behavior that seriously jeopardizes patient, student, staff, or preceptor safety
- Unprofessional behavior that seriously jeopardizes clinical affiliations

**Estimated Costs** (as of 2022-2023 catalog)

**Certificate Program (2 Semesters)**

**In-District**

Tuition and Fees (2 semesters)	\$1,733
Background Check and Drug Screens	\$ 57
Immunizations (Tb and flu)	\$ 50*
Books	\$ 610
TSBP Technician Trainee Registration	\$ 100
Malpractice Insurance	\$ 16
Uniform	\$ 50
National PTCB Exam Fee	\$ 129
Grand Total (30 hours, 2 semesters)	\$2,745

**Out-of-District**

Tuition and Fees (2 semesters)	\$2,973
Background Check and Drug Screens	\$ 57
Immunizations (Tb and flu)	\$ 50*
Books	\$ 610
TSBP Technician Trainee Registration	\$ 100
Malpractice Insurance	\$ 16
Uniform	\$ 50
National PTCB Exam Fee	\$ 129
Grand Total (30 hours, 2 semesters)	\$3,985

\*Immunization Fees will vary depending on individual shot records and insurance coverage

**National Certification and Texas State Board of Pharmacy Requirements**

Upon graduation from the College of the Mainland's Pharmacy Technician Program, each student will receive a Certificate of Completion from the COM acknowledging completion of an accredited educational program. Each student must then pass a national pharmacy technician certification exam administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) [www.PTCB.org](http://www.PTCB.org) or the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) [www.nhanow.com](http://www.nhanow.com) in order to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician.

***Eligibility Requirements to Apply for the PTCE (PTCB)***

- Reside in the United States of America or its territories (US)
- Completion of a **PTCB-Recognized Education/Training Program** or equivalent work experience
- Full disclosure of all criminal and State Board of Pharmacy registration or licensure actions
- Compliance with all applicable PTCB Certification policies

**OR**

***Eligibility Requirements to Apply for the ExCPT (NHA)***

- Be within no more than 60 days of successful completion of a high school diploma or equivalent
- Completion of a training program offered by an accredited or state-recognized institution or provider, or have relevant work experience with an employer-based training program

Within sixty days of national certification by PTCB or NHA, each graduate must upgrade their **Initial Pharmacy Technician Trainee** registration to a **Pharmacy Technician** registration with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy ([www.pharmacy.texas.gov/licensees/upgrade-tech-trainee.asp](http://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/licensees/upgrade-tech-trainee.asp)).

A Pharmacy Technician cannot be employed in the state of Texas unless they achieve national certification through **PTCB or NHA AND** then obtain and maintain a Pharmacy Technician Registration with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Maintenance of the Pharmacy Technician Registration requires completion of 20 hours of general and specific continuing education topics every 2 years. ([www.pharmacy.texas.gov](http://www.pharmacy.texas.gov))

**PTCE National Certification Pass Rates for College of the Mainland Pharmacy Technician Program**

70%\*

\*The national average for the PTCE National Certification Exam pass rate is 69%.

***For More Information Please Contact:***

Lisa Homburg RPh  
Assistant Professor- Pharmacy Technician Program  
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