


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Pharmacy Technicians SOC # 29-2052	
Regional	350	450	28.60%	25		
Texas	24,400	35,050	43.60%	1810		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Regionally	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
< 1 year	Yes	\$14.07	67.3%	34.3	Average	Growth

JOB DESCRIPTION

Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications. *In the future, will include digitization of health records.*

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

- Health and Personal Care Stores
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Grocery Stores
- Other General Merchandise Stores
- Offices of Physicians
- Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses
- Department Stores

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- CONTENT
- * Active Listening
- * Speaking
- PROCESS
- * Active Learning
- SOCIAL SKILLS
- * Instructing
- * Service Orientation

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 510805 Pharmacy Technician/Assistant

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

- ARTS AND HUMANITIES
- * English Language
- BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
- * Clerical
- * Customer and Personal Service
- HEALTH SERVICES
- * Medicine and Dentistry
- MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
- * Mathematics

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

- AUDITORY AND SPEECH ABILITIES
- * Speech Clarity
- IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES
- * Problem Sensitivity
- VERBAL ABILITIES
- * Oral Comprehension
- * Oral Expression
- VISUAL ABILITIES
- * Near Vision

NATURE OF THE WORK: Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other health care products to patients. Technicians usually perform routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication for patients, such as counting tablets and labeling bottles. Technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist.

Pharmacy aides work closely with pharmacy technicians. They often are clerks or cashiers who primarily answer telephones, handle money, stock shelves, and perform other clerical duties. Pharmacy technicians usually perform more complex tasks than do pharmacy aides, although in some States their duties and job titles may overlap.

Pharmacy technicians who work in retail or mail-order pharmacies have varying responsibilities, depending on State rules and regulations. Technicians receive written prescriptions or requests for prescription refills from patients. They also may receive prescriptions sent electronically from the doctor's office. They must verify that the information on the prescription is complete and accurate. To prepare the prescription, technicians must retrieve, count, pour, weigh, measure, and sometimes mix the medication. Then, they prepare the prescription labels, select the type of prescription container, and affix the prescription and auxiliary labels to the container. Once the prescription is filled, technicians price and file the prescription, which must be checked by a pharmacist before it is given to the patient. Technicians may establish and maintain patient profiles, prepare insurance claim forms, and stock and take inventory of prescription and over-the-counter medications.

In hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities, technicians have added responsibilities, including reading patients' charts and preparing and delivering the medicine to patients. Still, the pharmacist must check the order before it is delivered to the patient. The technician then copies the information about the prescribed medication onto the patient's profile. Technicians also may assemble a 24-hour supply of medicine for every patient. They package and label each dose separately. The packages are then placed in the medicine cabinets of patients until the supervising pharmacist checks them for accuracy. The packages are then given to the patients.