

Pharmacy Technician

Fill and check prescriptions under a pharmacist. One to two years of college, a national exam, and a job in every town.

TYPICAL PAY

\$55,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$68k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Retail pharmacies, hospitals,
long-term care, mail-order pharm...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Grade 12 English and math. Biology and chemistry help and are required at some colleges.
- 2 Accredited pharmacy technician diploma** 1 to 2 years
A 1 to 2 year college program accredited by CCAPP (the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs). Drug names, calculations, compounding, software, and a placement in both a retail and a hospital pharmacy.
- 3 Write the PEBC (Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada) exams** After graduation
Part 1 is multiple choice. Part 2 is a hands-on practical where you check prescriptions and compound at stations.
- 4 Register with your provincial college** A few months
For example the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Includes a short law and ethics test and a period of supervised practice.

Pros and cons

- + One or two years and you are working
- + Jobs in every community in Canada
- + Stable, predictable hours
- Retail pay is low for a regulated health job
- The ceiling is low unless you move to hospital or management
- Customers angry about waits, costs and insurance

Good to know

The final check can be yours

In regulated provinces, a pharmacy technician can sign off that the right drug, strength and quantity went in the bottle. The pharmacist still checks that the drug is right for the patient. Splitting the work thi...

Robots need technicians

Many hospitals and mail-order pharmacies now use automated dispensing robots. They still need technicians to load, program and check them, so automation shifted the work rather than removing it.

Optional boosts

Sterile compounding. Injections. Lead or supervisor technician. Automation and informatics.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Pharmacy technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada: Exam dates and fees
Ontario College of Pharmacists: Injection and inhalation
Ontario College of Pharmacists

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/pharmacy-technician>



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