



**S**AN JACINTO<sup>SM</sup>  
**C**OLLEGE  
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**Pharmacy Technician Program  
Information Packet**

*Revised Spring 2024*



Dear Prospective Student:

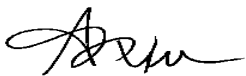
Thank you for your interest in the Pharmacy Technician Program at San Jacinto College. To give an overview of what our program can offer in just three terms, please review the following:

- Certificate of Technology – Upon completion of the program, students will receive a certification that is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) / Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- IV Certification of Completion – Students have the opportunity to become IV certified, which enables them to prepare sterile products in any advanced pharmacy setting.
- CPR Certification – As part of the program, students obtain Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR training through the American Heart Association (AHA).
- Experience – Students practice and gain experience in actual pharmacies during their two clinical rotations.
- Pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam – Upon completion of the program, students gain the knowledge and skills to pass the national exam. Visit [www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org) or [www.nhanow.com](http://www.nhanow.com) to learn more!

Regular Informational Session dates, detailed program information and application forms are available on our website: <https://www.sanjac.edu/programs/areas-of-study/health/pharmacy-tech/> or you may pick up an application packet in our office located in the Allied Health & Science Building (North Campus – building 17; South Campus – building 1).

We know this is an important decision and we would be happy to talk with you about how three semesters in our program can prepare you for a successful career as a certified pharmacy technician. We look forward to having you as a student in our program. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 281-998-6150 (extension 7348 for North Campus; extension 3597 for South Campus) or e-mail us at the addresses as seen below.

Sincerely,



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San Jacinto College North  
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## About the Profession

### What is a Pharmacy Technician?

According to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, “A Pharmacy Technician is an individual whose responsibility in a pharmacy is to provide technical services that do not require professional judgment regarding preparing and distributing drugs. A Pharmacy Technician works under the direct supervision of and is responsible to a pharmacist.” ( <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/applicants/tech-and-trainee.asp> )

### How Much Does a Pharmacy Technician Make?

According to [www.texaswages.com](http://www.texaswages.com), the median annual rate for the Gulf Coast region \$39,651 per year (about \$19 per hour) as of Spring 2024.

### Prospect For Employment – Where Can I Find a Job?

Employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to increase by over 21 percent from 2016 - 2026, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. This demand will be due to the expansion of retail pharmacies, the increased number of middle-aged and elderly people, and the increasing roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians.

Graduates of our program can work anywhere in the nation as pharmacy technicians in areas such as (but not limited to):

- Retail pharmacies
- Compounding pharmacies
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Home health care
- Public and government health agencies

## Program Overview

### About the Program

The program was established in August 1999 with the primary purpose of providing a reliable formal education and training to students who desire to become pharmacy technicians. The American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Accreditation Council Pharmacy Education (ACPE), organizations that work with other regulatory authorities to set the standard for pharmacy practice nationwide, accredit the San Jacinto College Pharmacy Technician Program.

Our 32-hour certificate program

- can be completed in 3 consecutive semesters (1 year if a student is enrolled full-time).
- is FASFA approved.
- offers a blend of “Face to Face” (traditional), “Hybrid” (partially online) and fully “Online” classes.

## Locations

Campus	North Campus	South Campus
Address	Building 17 (Health/Natural Sciences) 5800 Uvalde Rd. Houston, TX 77044	Building 1 (Health/Natural Sciences) 13735 Beamer Rd. Houston, TX 77089
E-mail address	<a href="mailto:north.pharmtech@sjcd.edu">north.pharmtech@sjcd.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:south-pharmtech@sjcd.edu">south-pharmtech@sjcd.edu</a>
Program Offerings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Semester, full or part-time</li> <li>Dual Credit or Early College (high school students only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Semester, full or part-time</li> <li>Spring Semester, full or part-time</li> </ul>

## How Much Does the Program Cost?

Approximate Total Costs for the Pharmacy Technician Program (edited Summer 2024)

Entrance Fees:	Background Check /Drug Screen/Immunization Tracker		\$109.00	
	TSBP Registration (Trainee License)		\$105.00	
	Misc. Fees (Immunizations)*		Varies	
<b>San Jacinto College Fees:</b>		<b>In-District (\$83 per SCH)***</b>	<b>Out-of-District (\$144 per SCH)***</b>	<b>Out-of-State / International (\$223 per SCH)***</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester: (13 credit hours)</b>	Tuition Fee	\$1,079.00	\$1,872.00	\$2,899.00
	Textbooks**	\$345.00	\$345.00	\$345.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,424.00</b>	<b>\$2,217.00</b>	<b>\$3,244.00</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester: (13 credit hours)</b>	Tuition Fee	\$1,079.00	\$1,872.00	\$2,899.00
	Textbooks**	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,229.00</b>	<b>\$2,022.00</b>	<b>\$3,049.00</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester: (6 credit hours)</b>	Tuition Fee	\$498.00	\$864.00	\$1,338.00
	Textbooks**	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$558.00</b>	<b>\$924.00</b>	<b>\$1,398.00</b>
Total for All Semesters (including estimated costs, which will vary, and entrance fees)		\$3,425.00	\$5,377.00	\$7,905.00

\*Price may vary on individual shots needed/third party payment plan

\*\*Estimated cost of books based on purchases of new physical books direct from San Jac Bookstore

\*\*\*SCH = semester credit hour

## Approximate Schedule of Classes

Classes are offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semester's, and will vary on the delivery of the course depending on the subject and when a student applies. The meeting times of classes may vary depending on availability. For an average schedule, our students are typically here from 8 AM to 12:30 PM Monday – Friday during the Fall and Spring semesters. The hours for the Summer semester are often longer due to the shortened amount of time available for the semester itself. All classes are first come, first serve bases until the maximum capacity is met. We do have overfill classes that may not fall under the traditional class time stated above that are filled as needed.

## Student Schedule Example – Credit Student (Degree Plan Code: 4PHAR)

Semester	Course	Credit Hours
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	PHRA 1202 Pharmacy Law	2
	PHRA 1305 Drug Classification	3
	PHRA 1313 Community Pharmacy Practice I	3
	PHRA 1309 Pharmaceutical Mathematics I	3
	HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	PHRA 1441 Pharmacy Drug Therapy and Treatment	4
	PHRA 1347 Pharmaceutical Mathematics II	3
	PHRA 1345 Compounding Sterile Preparations and Aseptic Technique	3
	PHRA 1349 Institutional Pharmacy Practice	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	PHRA 1261 Clinical – Pharmacy Technician I	2
	PHRA 2261 Clinical – Pharmacy Technician II	2
	PHRA 1243 Pharmacy Technician Certification Review	2
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Certificate of Technology Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>32</b>
<p>Note: Student must pass each course listed in the certificate for Pharmacy Technician with a grade of C or higher to be eligible to receive a certificate of technology. Students must have all clinical requirements to be placed in clinical rotation. Transportation must be provided by the student to complete 128 unpaid clinical hours for each clinical course. It's the student's responsibility to contact Program Director for Graduation Planning.</p>		

### Required Textbooks for the Pharmacy Technician Program:

Books list may change semester to semester - please verify with the pharmacy technician department for the most up to date list. Note that students may purchase or rent either a physical hard copy or electronic copies as fits their needs. (Updated Spring 2024)

Course	Book	ISBN #	Publisher	Cost (Approximate)
<b>HPRS 1206</b>	Medical Terminology: Get Connected!, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition by Suzanne S. Frucht	9780134989457	Pearson	\$74.99
<b>PHRA 1202</b>	Law and Ethics for Pharmacy Technicians, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition by Jahangir Moini	9781337796620	Cengage	\$93
<b>PHRA 1309 &amp; PHRA 1347</b>	Pharmaceutical Mathematics Workbook, 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition by Sara Byars	9781792479816	Kendall Hunt	\$66.15
<b>PHRA 1313 &amp; PHRA 1349</b>	Pharmacy Practice for Technicians, 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition by Skye A. McKennon and Robert J. Anderson	9780763893019	Paradigm	\$109
<b>PHRA 1345</b>	Mosby's Sterile Compounding for Pharmacy Technicians, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition by Karen Davis	9780323673242	Elsevier	\$63.99
<b>PHRA 1441</b>	Pharmacology for Technicians, 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition by Kevin T. Hope and Skye A. McKennon	9780763893026	Paradigm	\$83.25
<b>PHAR 1243</b>	Mosby's Pharmacy Technician Exam Review, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition by James J. Mizner	9780323497244	Elsevier	\$58.99

**NOTE:** PHRA 1305, PHRA 1261 and PHRA 2261 do not require the purchase of textbooks.

## Beyond the Program – Get Your Associates Degree!

Once the pharmacy technician program has been completed, students are eligible for the Associate of Applied Sciences degree. An additional two full-time semesters at San Jacinto College would complete the requirements for this degree. See the required courses here:

<b>Fourth Term</b>		
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3
HIST 1301	United States History I	3
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
Language, Philosophy, and Culture (Humanities) or Creative Arts (Fine Arts)		3
Select one of the following:		3
SPCH 1311	Introduction to Speech Communication	
SPCH 1315	Public Speaking	
SPCH 1318	Interpersonal Communication	
SPCH 1321	Business and Professional Speech	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Fifth Term</b>		
ENGL 1302	Composition II	3
Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1306 & BIOL 1106	Biology for Science Majors I (lecture) and Biology for Science Majors I (lab)	
BIOL 2301 & BIOL 2101	Anatomy and Physiology I (Lecture) and Anatomy and Physiology I (Lab)	
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3
HIST 1302	United States History II	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

**NOTE:** Some students may have taken one or more of these classes prior to participation in the Pharmacy Tech Program and they DO count towards earning the degree! Students must earn a C or better in all Pharmacy Tech Program courses and all science courses and maintain an overall cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 to remain in and/or graduate from the program.

## **Application Process**

### What Prerequisites Are Required to Be Accepted into the Program?

Currently, the Pharmacy Technician Program has no pre-requisite classes or a minimum GPA for admission; however, it's mandatory for all incoming San Jac students, unless exempt, to take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) to determine college readiness levels in math, reading, and writing. We believe that a certain level of competency is important to be the most successful in the program, therefore your TSIA levels will be reviewed. Please note that your scores will not prevent you from entering into our program. The **suggested** scores are as follows:

- Math – 325 or higher
- Reading – 330 or higher
- Writing – 330 or higher

### Admissions Criteria and Process

Before beginning the application process, students must:

- Have, or be in the process of obtaining through our dual credit office, a high school diploma or GED.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.

### Steps to Apply:

- 1) Apply to San Jacinto College (<https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/>).
- 2) Complete and submit a program application (note that they are campus specific). See more information here: <https://www.sanjac.edu/programs/areas-of-study/health/pharmacy-tech/admission-info>
- 3) Place an order on the third-party website called CastleBranch ([https://www.castlebranch.com/online\\_submission/package\\_code.php](https://www.castlebranch.com/online_submission/package_code.php)) using one of the following codes:
  - If you are planning to attend the North Campus, use the package code “SQ27”
  - If you are planning to attend the South Campus, use the package code “SV21”

The cost of the package code should be \$109. These codes give students a background check\*, a drug screening process\*\*, and an immunization tracker. To get accepted into the program per ASHP standards, students must have a clear background check and a negative 10-panel drug screen. These processes must be completed using CastleBranch. No other background check service or drug screening process will be accepted. This process may need to be completed again before placement into a clinical setting if either process is over a year old.

**NOTE:** Illicit drug use, criminal backgrounds, and immunization status may prevent future employment as a Pharmacy Technician. Our program wants to be sure there are no barriers from completing the program or gaining a license from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Additionally, our accreditation and affiliation sites require students to have a clear background (no evidence of criminal history) and a negative 10-panel drug screen. If students get a positive result on their drug screening, they have proof of current and valid prescriptions sent to CastleBranch. The Texas State Board of Pharmacy, future employers, and the National Testing agencies have set requirements for Background Checks and Drug Screens. For more information, please visit <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/TechTrainee.asp>

\*The background check will run automatically and can take 48-72 hours to complete. All results will be available on your profile and can be seen by the Pharmacy Technician Program.

\*\*The drug screening process requires students to download the electronic chain of custody form and schedule an appointment with a third-party company that collects the samples for all drug screens (Labcorp). Print out the form and take it to the location described to get a sample collected. If issues arise, please contact the program of your campus.

- 4) While waiting to be admitted into the program, gather all immunization records. Proof of the following immunizations will need to be uploaded to each student’s individual CastleBranch account after admission and upon completion of the first semester in the program:
  - Tetanus-diphtheria (Tdap):** Proof of one dose that is less than 10 years old.
  - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR):** Proof of 2 doses.
  - Hepatitis B:** Proof of 2 doses (of Heplisav-B®) or 3 doses (all other brands). Note that the 3-dose series can take 4-6 months to complete.
  - Varicella (chickenpox):** Proof of 2 doses.
  - Influenza (flu):** Proof of one dose for the current flu season. Usually available by September of each calendar year.

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Proof of a negative result (can be via skin test, blood test, or Xray image) that is less than 1 year old

**NOTE:**

- a. Clinical sites may request additional testing and/or repeated or additional vaccines (such as the COVID-19 vaccine series) to be accepted for clinical rotation (additional charges may apply). Additionally, the cost of vaccinations and potential titer testing is the responsibility of the student.
- b. These immunizations are required by our clinical sites and enforced by our Advisory Board Committee.
- c. Students can upload documentation of the immunization itself, or if the documentation was lost or is unavailable, immunity can be validated with an antibody titer test (a blood test completed by a physician). Proof of diagnosis of the disease through other means is not accepted. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all submissions are cleared. Rejections or errors must be resolved in a timely manner by the student and might involve contacting CastleBranch directly.

**DISCLAIMER:** Healthcare professions include inherent health and safety risks. Therefore, all Pharmacy Technician students are required to be compliant with Texas Administrative Code Rule 97.64 related to immunizations for the protection of themselves and patients.

### **How Will I Know I Have Been Accepted?**

If all admissions criteria have been met, students will get their acceptance letter from the program director via the e-mail given on their application. The letter will contain information about registration for classes as well as dates for program orientation.

## **Post Acceptance Requirements**

### **Attend Orientation**

Students must attend a 2-3 hour program orientation that is usually scheduled 1-2 weeks before the start of the semester. Information about the orientation is disseminated via the acceptance letter given to students in their e-mail.

### **Register For Classes**

Students are advised to register for classes as soon as possible. Dates for registration deadlines will be disseminated via the acceptance letter given to students in their e-mail.

### **Register With the Texas State Board of Pharmacy [TSBP]**

Students must register as a pharmacy technician trainee with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy by the start of their second semester at a minimum. This entity writes the laws for the practice of pharmacy in the state, and per their requirements, no one may enter a pharmacy without a registration or license. Since the final semester of the program involves completion of clinical rotations within a pharmacy, the registration is a necessary process for students to complete. It is important to note that it can take several months to complete so be sure



to follow all the deadlines given by the clinical liaison and/or program director. Additionally, the registration obtained at the end of this process is valid only for two-years and is non-renewable.

## **TSBP Registration Information**

Registration will be completed in 2 parts:

- 1) Create an account and then pay for the application (\$55.00) via the website:  
<https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/applicants/tech-trainee.asp>
- 2) Schedule an appointment for a fingerprint session (which is ultimately a background check) through a third party called Identogo using a link provided via e-mail. It can also be found here: <https://uenroll.identogo.com/servicecode/11G3HG>. The cost of the fingerprinting session should be less than \$50.

The link for a step-by-step video tutorial on how to apply to the Texas State Board can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tVjez7plQY>

Please be aware that the Texas State board of Pharmacy will ask for a background check when it comes time to renew of your registration as a certified pharmacy technician. Employers will also ask for a background check for hire. It is important to be transparent if you have anything on your record. Remember: acceptance into this program is dependent on a clear background check.

## **Program Expectations**

### **Dress for Success**

Students will be sized at orientation and then given scrubs to wear as their uniform during the first or second week of class. Students are required to wear the uniform at all times and for the full duration of any pharmacy technician program related class, lab, event, or activity and while at their clinical site. Shoes may not have holes in them, nor may they be “slip-on” style. Tennis shoes are best. If needed, only a zip up jacket will be acceptable – no sweatshirts, hoodies or other styles of outerwear are acceptable. Scrub tops and bottoms should be visible at all times for the duration of their time on campus or for any pharmacy technician program related class, event, or activity and while at their clinical site.

### **Check Your E-mail!**

Students must claim their email address by visiting [www.sanjac.edu/email](http://www.sanjac.edu/email) and must check it along with each Blackboard course site on a daily basis. This is the only email address that can be used to communicate with you during your college experience at San Jacinto Community College. Students experiencing any problems with email accounts should contact Tech Support at 281-998-6137.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where will I go to complete my clinical rotations?**

The Pharmacy Technician Program has several pharmacy contracts in our greater Houston area; however, the selection can be limited due to the pharmacy's availability. Towards the end of the second semester, the Clinical Liaison will assign clinical sites that best fits the student's needs. Individual transportation is required. Long-distance driving might also be required. Student might have to pay for parking (averaging \$9/day). Some clinical sites may ask for additional testing and/or vaccines to be accepted for clinical rotation.

### **When do I sit for the National Certification Exam?**

All students will sit for their national credentialing exam during, or at the very end of, the last semester of the program. Students must register for and then select the day and time for their exam. Testing is not provided at the, nor is it affiliated with, San Jacinto Community College. Additionally, students must provide their own transportation to their testing site.