

The Pharmacy Technician Certification program, CIP code 51.0805, at Mineral Area College is an eighteen-week, 20 credit hour, degree-seeking program. Students once enrolled in the program can choose between one of three tracks: 1) complete the eighteen-week program graduate with a certificate of completion and 20 credit hours listed on a transcript here at the college; 2) complete the pharmacy technician classes and take three additional courses which include: Medical Terminology I, II, and Essentials of A&P for coders, earning a one-year certificate; 3) complete the pharmacy technician classes and take additional courses ultimately earning an Associate of Applied Science Business Management – Retail Pharmacy Technician.

Individuals interested in being enrolled in the program must apply for the class on-line via the Mineral Area College website. Upon completion of the application, those persons are then contacted by Mrs. Tina Miller or Mrs. Stacey Wideman, our retention specialists. Together they both make sure that the individual meets certain requirements of the grant in order to be eligible to participate in the class. Those persons are then invited to attend an informational night, where they are provided with further information about the program. Prior to the informational night, individuals are asked to complete the WorkKeys Assessment. They must score a four (4) in all areas of the WorkKeys Assessment: Locating Information, Reading Information, and Mathematics. Those who attend the informational night, are asked to bring with them a resume so that they can be interviewed by the instructor, Mrs. Jennifer Majeske, Mrs. Miller and/or Mrs. Wideman to see if they are still interested in participating in the program as well as to learn more about the individual including any criminal history. Students are assessed at the interview via a rubric designed by Mrs. Majeske. The rubric includes the following areas: Listening, Speaking, Body Language, Eye Contact, Professional Dress, WorkKeys, Resume, and Application. Scoring is done on a point scale, four (4) points indicates excellence, three (3) points indicates proficiency, two (2) points indicate developing proficiency, and one (1) point is considered unacceptable.

Mrs. Majeske, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Wideman then meet to discuss those persons who they have met, review their application and determine who will be offered a conditional admittance to the class. Upon conditional admittance, students must now apply to be registered as pharmacy technicians with the Missouri State Board of Pharmacy. This process includes completing an application, being fingerprinted – for a state and federal background check, and paying a fee of \$35. The program also requires that students pass a 10-panel drug test as part of their conditional admittance. Applications are submitted to the state board and then we wait to see who has been approved to be registered as pharmacy technicians. Those students who have been approved by the state board are then issued full admittance into the pharmacy technician program. Students meet three days a week, 9 am to 3 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the first six weeks of the class. The second six weeks, in addition to attending class three days a week, students participate in two clinical rotations in either retail and/or institutional pharmacy setting.

Before completion of the class, students go and take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam. The pass rate of students who have participated in the Pharmacy Technician Certification program on the above-mentioned exam, which recognizes individuals as being nationally certified with the title CPhT – Certified Pharmacy Technician is 83%.