Somerset Community College

Program Overview

Pharmacy Technology

Pharmacy Technician Diploma

somerset.kctcs.edu

ADVISOR

Shannon Hickman
Program Coordinator
(606) 878-4865
shannon.hickman@kctcs.edu

LOCATION

Program offered at the Laurel Campus.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics anticipates nationally 32% growth in the need for Certified Pharmacy Technicians through 2016, and the avg. hourly wage $14.10. In Kentucky the avg. hourly wage is $12.26, and the there are currently 6,480 pharmacy technicians employed in the state and rising. (www.bls.gov)
All pharmacy technicians must be registered with the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy during employment.

PROGRAM DETAILS

This program prepares students with the skills and educational background needed to successfully pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) and become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT). The pharmacy technician works under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and assists in routine functions of the pharmacy ranging from ordering, stocking, inventorying, repackaging, compounding, and prescription preparation. Pharmacy technicians may be employed at various settings (e.g., hospitals, chain pharmacies, independent pharmacies, home health pharmacies, managed-care pharmacy services, and mail-order pharmacies).

The essential elements of the program include the history of pharmacy, pharmacy law, medical terminology, drug classification and prescription preparation. Laboratory experience and an externship under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist are required components of the program.

Progression in the Pharmacy Technology program is contingent upon achievement of a grade of "C" or above in each PHA course and maintenance of a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Upon completion of the program, the individual can take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). When the student passes the exam, they are then granted the title of Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT). National certification exams are given by the "Pharmacy Technician Certification Board" (www.PTCB.org). In order to be eligible to take the exam, applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Applicants must also have not had any felony convictions of any type within 5 years of applying to take the exam. They must also have not had any history of drug or pharmacy related felony convictions during their lifetime. The pharmacy technician certification test is a computerized test consisting of 90 multiple choice questions. Applicants must receive a score of 75 percent or greater to pass. The cost of the test as of June 1, 2010 is $129.

PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY CREDENTIALS:

CERTIFICATE:
- Retail Pharmacy Technician (19 credit hours)

DIPLOMA:
- Pharmacy Technician Diploma (39-48 credit hours)

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The following materials must be on file in the program coordinator's office by May 1:
- Applications for admission to SCC
- Official high school transcript or a passing GED official score report
- Transcripts of all post-secondary education or training
- Results of the ACT examination report
- Letter written to the Pharmacy Technology program coordinator stating intent to be admitted to the program
- Documentation of attendance at a pre-admission conference

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Potential candidates are recommended to the Provost by the PHA Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will make their recommendations based on the following:
- Preference may be given to applicants with an ACT composite score of 19 or higher
- Preference may be given to applicants who rank in the upper half of their graduating class or have an average score of 50 or above on the GED
- Preference may be given to those applicants who have completed college algebra
- Preference may be given to those applicants who submit evidence of successful completion of developmental course work or those who have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better taking 12 or more credit hours of college work, including at least one science course
- Preference will be given to Kentucky residents

Somerset Community College
HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

KCTCS is an equal opportunity employer and education institution.