

Factsheet

Pharmacy technician

Career factsheet for school leavers

Allied Health Careers

What is a Pharmacy technician?

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of pharmacists. They help with preparing and supplying medicines and keep the pharmacy running smoothly. Their work supports patient care in hospitals and community pharmacies, and other health care settings.

What does a pharmacy technician do?

- Assist in dispensing of medicines and clinical activities (e.g. educating patients about medicines) under a pharmacist's supervision
- Provide advice and answer non-clinical questions about medicine storage and availability
- Ensure accurate medical and financial records are maintained for all transactions
- Pharmaceutical stock management including ordering and receiving medicines, stock rotation, bulk distribution, cold chain management and recalls
- Create personalised medicines by mixing raw ingredients into customised doses under a pharmacist's supervision (known as 'compounding').

How can I become a pharmacy technician?

You don't need formal qualifications to start as a pharmacy technician, but experience in a pharmacy or health setting helps.

To move into senior pharmacy roles, you'll need:

- A Certificate III or IV in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support, or Community Pharmacy, or
- A willingness to complete one within a set time

If you want to take on more advanced tasks, you'll need to pass extra competency assessments. Training development opportunities exist to move into more senior or specialised roles allowing for career progression. Pathways can lead into roles in clinical pharmacy, training and education, safety and quality, management, or business development.



What subjects should I choose at school?

Useful subjects to consider include English, mathematics, health and sciences.

Can I do work experience?

Yes. You may be able to do work experience in a hospital or community pharmacy. Ask your school careers advisor or contact local pharmacies to find out more.

Can I study to be a pharmacy technician in the NT?

Yes. You can study online with Box Hill Institute, which offers a 15-month Certificate III in Hospital or Health Services Pharmacy Support.

Other training providers offer blended learning (online and in-person), and most courses include practical placement. You need to be working in a pharmacy to enrol. Pharmacy technicians are often supported by their workplace to complete a certificate.

Are there any scholarships or financial assistance available?

Yes, there are several options available, including:

Australian Government - Study Assist

Information about government assistance for financing tertiary study:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/payments-you-can-get-for-higher-education?context=60078

Northern Territory Government

NTG Traineeships:

jointheterritory.nt.gov.au/work/work-for-ntg/Agency_sites/early-careers/traineeship-program

NT Health Aboriginal Scholarship Scheme and Aboriginal Cadetship Program:

health.nt.gov.au/careers/aboriginal-careers2/indigenous-cadetships

Myfuture

Australian career information and exploration service:

myfuture.edu.au



Careers in Allied Health

A pharmacist is the primary career a pharmacy technician can progress into, however opportunities to progress into other professions are available:

Audiologist
Dietitian
Health Promotion Practitioner
Medical Laboratory Scientist
Medical Radiation Practitioner
Occupational Therapist
Oral Health Therapist
Physiotherapist
Podiatrist
Prosthetist/Orthotist
Psychologist
Social Worker
Sonographer
Speech Pathologist

Need more information?

NT Health

health.nt.gov.au/professionals/allied-health

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)

Compare undergraduate courses, student experience and graduate employment in different universities

qilt.edu.au

Indigenous Allied Health Australia

iaha.com.au

Your Career – Australian Directory of Training

Information on training courses for school leavers, students, apprentices, and employers

yourcareer.gov.au/learn-and-train/myskills

Career FAQs

Courses and career resources

careerfaqs.com.au

Experience clinical and cultural diversity while making a difference in Aboriginal health by joining the allied health workforce in the NT.