



SAN JACINTOSM
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**Pharmacy Technician Program
Information Packet
2023-2024**





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 pharmacy setting.
- CPR Certification – As part of the program, students obtain training as a Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider through the American Heart Association (AHA).
- Experience – Students practice and gain experience in retail and hospital settings during 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 or 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).

Students who have been accepted must attend a mandatory orientation 1-2 weeks prior to the start of the semester. More information on exact dates and times will be disseminated via e-mail.

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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About the Program – who are we?

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) accredits San Jacinto College Pharmacy Technician Program, an organization that works with other regulatory authorities to set the standard for pharmacy practice nationwide.

What are the job responsibilities of a Pharmacy Technician in Texas?

This information can be found on our website <https://www.sanjac.edu/programs/areas-of-study/health/pharmacy-tech/> or can be located on the Texas State Board of Pharmacy page: www.pharmacy.texas.gov/techduties.asp

How much does a Pharmacy Technician make?

According to www.texaswages.com, the median annual rate for the Gulf Coast region \$39,905 per year (about \$19 per hour) as of Summer 2023.

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 as pharmacy technicians in:

- Hospitals,
- Nursing homes,
- Retail,
- Home health care, and
- Public and government health agencies.

Do I need pre-requisites for acceptance to the program or pass the TSAI Reading, Math and Writing Levels?

Currently, the Pharmacy Technician Program has no pre-requisites to be accepted; however, it's mandatory for all students to take the TSAI to gauge their level performances. We believe that a certain level of testing is important to be successful in the program, therefore your TSAI levels will be reviewed. If you do not meet the levels mentioned below, you must participate in a Pharmacy Tech Level Crash course. This crash course will help you focus on weaknesses that may hinder your success into the program.

TSI Test **suggested** scores: Math (325 or higher) Reading (330 or higher) Writing (330 or higher)

How am I accepted?

First, you must be a student at San Jacinto College. Then you must take the TSAI test to gather information about your performance – your scores will not prevent you from entering into our program. You will then apply to the pharmacy technician program and complete a background check and drug screen through a third-party called CastleBranch.

After acceptance, it is important to note that the program also requires immunizations to be submitted to CastleBranch. Additionally, students must also apply to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to gain a Pharmacy Technician Trainee License.

See the Admissions Criteria below:

ADMISSION CRITERIA

North Campus

N17- Health/Natural Sciences
5800 Uvalde Rd. Houston, TX 77044
north.pharmtech@sjcd.edu

Offerings:

- Fall Semester Morning
- Fall Semester Part-Time Afternoon
- Dual Credit Program (High School Only) 2 year
- Early College Program (High School Only) 3 year

South Campus

S1-Health/Natural Sciences
13735 Beamer Rd. Houston, TX 77089
south-pharmtech@sjcd.edu

Offerings:

- Fall Semester
- Spring Semester

College and Program Requirements:

- Have, or be in the process of obtaining through our dual credit office, a high school diploma or GED
- Apply to San Jacinto College (<https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/apply>).
- Complete and Submit TSAI scores (<https://www.sanjac.edu/admissions/testing/>).
- Complete and submit a program application.
 - North campus: <https://tinyurl.com/yck9mj88>
 - South campus: <https://tinyurl.com/mnp58hv6>
- Have a clear background check.
- Have a negative 10-panel drug screen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.

Background Check, Drug Test and Immunization:

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/4tday58a> and place order using the package code below. Note that the cost of this package is \$94

North Campus Code: SQ27

South Campus Code: SV21

Immunization Records Needed*:

Immunizations are required by our clinical sites and enforced by our Advisory Committee for the application process. Below you will find the immunizations needed as well as their specific requirements.

- Tetanus-diphtheria (Tdap): proof of 1 dose less than 10 years old.
- Measles, Mumps, and rubella (MMR): proof of 2 doses. If previously vaccinated and shot records are lost or unavailable, immunity can be validated with a titer level (blood) confirmation.
- Hepatitis B: proof of 3 doses. If previously vaccinated and shot record lost or unavailable, immunity can be validated with a titer level (blood) confirmation. Please note that the series can take 4-6 months to complete.
- Varicella (Chickenpox): proof of 2 doses. If previously vaccinated and shot records are lost or unavailable, or if you have had the chickenpox before, immunity can be validated with a titer level (blood) confirmation.
- Influenza (Flu) Vaccine: Flu vaccines are only accepted for the current flu season.
- Negative TB Skin Test (TB/PPD) OR Negative QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Blood Test OR Clear Chest X-Ray: If you have had a previous positive TB skin test or the BCG (TB) vaccination, you must have a chest x-ray performed. TB Skin Tests and Chest X-Rays are good for 1 year.

*Depending on the affiliation site that a student is placed at for their clinical externship, additional vaccines (such as the COVID-19 vaccine series) or the need to repeat vaccines may be required.

Immunizations are available from your physician or the Harris County Community Health Services Clinics Locations:

- Southeast: 3737 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena, TX 77509 (713) 740-5000
- Baytown: 1000 Lee Dr., Baytown, TX 77520 (281) 427-5195

Cost: TB Skin Test for \$5.00 and Immunizations are administered with a small fee (to those that qualify). Schedule an appointment for either location at (713) 212-6800.

Register as a Pharmacy Technician Trainee with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy:

Go to www.pharmacy.texas.gov/applicants/tech-trainee.asp and then follow the steps. Note that this process requires both an application fee (to be filled out online) and a fingerprinting session (to be scheduled via e-mail). Total Approximate Cost: \$98.00 (\$53.00 application fee + \$45 fingerprinting fee)

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>

Why do I need to pass a Background Check and Drug Screen?

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 you have a Positive Drug Screen, you must have proof of your 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>

Note that all background checks and drug screenings must be completed using CastleBranch. No other testing site or screening process will be accepted.

How do I use CastleBranch?

Step 1: Go to www.castlebranch.com and place a onetime order using the package code for your campus.

Step 2: Fill out all important information needed to complete the registration online and pay (\$94)

Step 3: The background check will run automatically and will take 48-72 hours to complete. All results will be available on your profile and can be seen by the Pharmacy Technician Program. Log back in to check completion within 48-72 hours.

Step 4: Login to CastleBranch within 3-4 business days and download the electronic chain of custody form. Click on the link provided and schedule your appointment. This will require a phone call to the third-party company that collects the samples for all drug screens (Labcorp). Print out the form and take it to the location described. If issues arise, please contact the program of your campus ASAP.

Step 5: Once you have completed the Labcorp visit, please e-mail your campus' program director so that your application status can be updated.

More information about immunizations:

The medical document manager from CastleBranch stores all your immunization records and important documents. **The cost of vaccinations and testing will not be covered. Candidates will have to pay out of pocket.** Scan/upload a file of record for all immunizations to CastleBranch. Students can also use the CastleBranch app to take pictures of and submit records. It is the student's responsibilities to be sure all submissions are cleared. If you have a rejection, or an error you must contact CastleBranch or forward the information to the Program Director of your campus.

Please note that certain documentations and immunizations are only good for a specific time-frame. For example, the following immunizations must be completed within 12 months from the start of clinical rotation.

- Negative TB Skin Test (TB/PPD) OR Negative QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Blood Test OR Clear Chest X-Ray: If you have had a previous positive TB skin test or the BCG (TB) vaccination, you must have a chest x-ray performed.
- Influenza (Flu) Vaccine: usually available in September each year for each "current" flu season

Why do I need a Texas State Board of Pharmacy Trainee license?

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy, the entity that writes the laws for the practice of pharmacy in this state, requires all individuals inside of a pharmacy to register, at a minimum, as a Pharmacy Technician Trainee. Therefore, in order to complete your clinical rotations (PHRA 1261 and PHRA 2261) where you will be working as a pharmacy technician inside of a pharmacy, you must complete this requirement to be in compliance with the law.

Note that this license is issued for a time period of two (2) years and is **not renewable**.

This process will be completed in 2 parts, and can take several months to complete so be sure to follow all deadlines given by the clinical liaison and/or program director of your campus:

- 1) First the student must register and pay <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/TechTrainee.asp> for the application.
- 2) After registration is completed, the student will schedule an appointment for a fingerprint session (which is ultimately an additional background check) <https://uenroll.identogo.com/servicecode/11G3HG>.

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. This program will only accept you if you have a clean background check.

How do I know which clinical sites I will be assigned to?

The Pharmacy Technician Program has several pharmacy contracts in our greater Houston area; however, the selection is very limited depending on the pharmacy's availability. Towards the end of the 2nd semester, our Clinical Liaison will assign sites that best fits the student. Individual transportation is required. Long-distance driving might be 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 are classes offered?

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. Our program offers both face-to-face classes and hybrid/online courses. 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.

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

Semester	Course	Credit Hours
1st	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
	Subtotal	13
2nd	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
	Subtotal	13
3rd	PHRA 2261 Clinical - Institutional Pharmacy	2
	PHRA 1261 Clinical - Community Pharmacy	2
	PHRA 1243 Pharmacy Tech Cert Review	2
	Subtotal	6
Certificate of Technology Total Credit Hours		32
<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 160 unpaid clinical hours for each clinical course. It's the student's responsibility to contact Program Director for Graduation Planning.</p>		

How much does the program cost?

Approximate Total Costs for the Pharmacy Technician Program (edited Spring 2023)

Entrance Fees:	Background Check /Drug Screen/Immunization Tracker	\$94.00		
	TSBP Registration (Trainee License)	\$98.00		
	Misc. Fees (Immunizations)*	Varies		
San Jacinto College Fees:		In-District (\$83 per SCH)**	Out-of-District (\$144 per SCH)**	Out-of-State / International (\$223 per SCH)**
1st Semester: (13 credit hours)	Tuition Fee	\$1,079.00	\$1,872.00	\$2,899.00
	Textbooks**	\$345.00	\$345.00	\$345.00
	Total	\$1,424.00	\$2,217.00	\$3,244.00
2nd Semester: (13 credit hours)	Tuition Fee	\$1,079.00	\$1,872.00	\$2,899.00
	Textbooks**	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
	Total	\$1,229.00	\$2,022.00	\$3,049.00
3rd Semester: (6 credit hours)	Tuition Fee	\$498.00	\$864.00	\$1,338.00
	Textbooks**	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
	Total	\$558.00	\$924.00	\$1,398.00
Total for All Semesters (including estimated costs, which will vary)		\$3,211.00	\$5,163.00	\$7,691.00

*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

List of 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 2023)

Course	Book	ISBN #	Publisher	Cost (Approximate)
HPRS 1206	Medical Terminology: Get Connected!, 3 rd Edition by Suzanne S. Frucht	9780134989457	Pearson	\$74.99
PHRA 1202	Law and Ethics for Pharmacy Technicians, 3 rd Edition by Jahangir Moini	9781337796620	Cengage	\$93
PHRA 1305	No Material Needed*	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHRA 1309 & PHRA 1347	Pharmaceutical Mathematics Workbook, 1 st Edition by Sara Byars	9781792479816	Kendall Hunt	\$66.15
PHRA 1313 & PHRA 1349	Pharmacy Practice for Technicians, 7 th Edition by Skye A. McKennon and Robert J. Anderson	9780763893019	Paradigm	\$109
PHRA 1345	Mosby's Sterile Compounding for Pharmacy Technicians, 2 nd Edition by Karen Davis	9780323673242	Elsevier	\$63.99
PHRA 1441	Pharmacology for Technicians, 7 th Edition by Kevin T. Hope and Skye A. McKennon	9780763893026	Paradigm	\$83.25
PHAR 1243	Mosby's Pharmacy Technician Exam Review, 4 th Edition by James J. Mizner**	9780323497244	Elsevier	\$58.99
PHRA 1261 & PHRA 2261	No Material Needed	N/A	N/A	N/A

*We look up the most widely used drugs via a list published by the database Lexicomp (accessible to all students via the San Jac Library).

**Free Mometrix Test Prep San Jac Article Library Resource

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 College and students must provide their own transportation to their testing site. It is important to note that the testing site is not affiliated with San Jacinto College.