Pharmacy Technician Program FAQ

What certification can I apply for?

This program will prepare students to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's (PTCB) Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE). The PTCE is the national certification. Taking and passing the PTCE provides the student with the ability to receive their Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) certification. Once passing the PTCE you can go on to apply for a California state license.

What level of education is required to take the class?

Students should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED. It should be noted that a high school diploma or GED is required to apply for the PTCE.

What prior knowledge should I have to be successful in this class?

This class is heavy in both memorization and math. For a sample of math expected please visit our website at: www.redwoods.edu/communityed/healthcare

Is the externship required?

No, the externship is not required but encouraged for on the job experience and is helpful to gain employment quickly.

Where can I take the PTCE?

Humboldt State University is a Pearson Vue testing site for the PTCE.

Detailed Course Topics Covered

- The history of pharmacy and healthcare
- Pharmacy technician role and responsibilities
- Pharmacy technician certification and registration process
- Types of pharmacies including the hospital pharmacy, retail practice, long-term care practice, mail order pharmacy, home care pharmacies, and others
- Drug regulation and control
- Pharmaceutical terminology and related anatomy
- Parts of the prescription and labeling
- Pharmacy calculations and math review
- Pharmacy measures and abbreviations
- Routes and formulations
- Parenterals and compounding
- Basic biopharmaceutics
- Aseptic technique and the handling of sterile products
- Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)
- Basics of IV solutions and calculating 24-hour supply of IV solutions
- Factors affecting drug activity
- Information and pharmacy resources
- Inventory management and financial issues
- Brand names and generic drugs
- Drug names and drug classes