

Occupational Profile
Pharmacy Technicians
OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) CODE: 32518

Cameron County		Hidalgo/Starr/Willacy Counties	
Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010	Employment 2000	Projected Employment 2010
170	230	300	420
Absolute Change		Absolute Change	
#	%	#	%
60	35.3	120	40
Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement	Is License Required?	Growth to Replacement
Yes	1:1	Yes	1:1
Hourly Wage 2002		Hourly Wage 2002	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median
\$9.89	\$9.46	\$10.45	\$10.28

Job Description:

Pharmacy Technicians and assistants help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other health care products to patients. Pharmacy technicians usually perform more complex tasks than assistants do, although in some States their duties and job titles overlap. Technicians usually perform routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication for patients, such as counting and labeling. A pharmacist must check every prescription before it can be given to a patient. Technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist.

Average Education Required

These occupations usually require a high school diploma and may require some vocational training or job-related course work. In some cases, an associate's or bachelor's degree could be needed.

Related Occupations

Workers in other medical support occupations include dental assistants, health information technicians, licensed vocational nurses, medical secretaries, medical transcriptionists, occupational therapy assistants and aides, physical therapist assistants and aides, and surgical technologists.

Industrial Employment Patterns		
Industry Code	Industry	Percent of Employees
5910	Drug Stores & Proprietary Stores	57.3%
5410	Grocery Stores	24.3%
8060	Hospitals	5.5%
5310	Department Stores	4.2%
9100	Federal Government	3.3%

Skills Required

- Mathematics -- Using mathematics to solve problems
- Reading Comprehension -- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Active Listening -- Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
- Science -- Using scientific methods to solve problems
- Information Gathering -- Knowing how to find information and identifying essential information