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# **Get Your Degree Online And Become A Pharmaceutical Technician Or Aid!**

The aging of the American population has turned out to be a boon for the job market, especially those in pharmaceuticals. As the average age of Americans increase, the number of drugs they take, from calcium supplements to Viagra, has also grown. This means the number of jobs available for Pharmaceutical Aides and Technicians needed to fill those prescriptions will increase from 380,000 to nearly 500,000 from 2009 to 2018. For the newer students entering this field, a good number will do so with the help of online schools and certification programs.

For the record, there's a lot of difference between the two jobs. The aide is the person who greets you at drug store, takes your script to the pharmacist and rings the sale up. While they may have some knowledge of what they are handing out, they usually defer to the druggist or the technician. Like most retail jobs, one need only have a secondary school degree. The pay is also pretty much the same as one, too, at \$7.00 to \$10.00 an hour, pretty standard retail rate. If you need more information about [accredited distance learning degree](#), look on the internet.

A technician is a more formal occupation. It's better compensated, too. Like aides, they primarily work retail. They can also be seen in major institutions like hospitals and clinics. The main responsibility is to verify the prescriptions; measure, fulfill the order; then hand it back to the aide, if not ring it up themselves.

Technicians also keep profiles of their customers, check on insurance refunds, and often answer questions for the pharmacist. In major health care institutions they have added tasks such as preparing and delivering whatever special formulas a nurse or doctor needs.

There's no way around going for post-secondary school when wanting to become a pharmaceutical tech. There is also a certification process. Fortunately, there are a number of institutions of higher learning, from brick and mortar vocational schools to online colleges, which offer six month to two year degreed programs. There is one important proviso, and that is the better paying positions need a minimum Associate's degree or better, plus one must get certified. Before going into the programs, it's usually a good idea to ask some places of employment and see what they require. A career counselor is also highly recommended as each state has its own regulations and bylaws about being a technician.

It's not uncommon for aides to get a job and also go to an online college to get their technicians degree after a year or two on the job. This is a good way to go, as the on-the-job experience not only gets practical knowledge of being a technician, but can turn into credit hours with the right school.

Salary for technicians is pretty much a straight up hourly situation, much like the aide. The big difference here is the technician's take home is nearly double that of the aide. Techs tend to make about \$15.00 an hour, with some sort of benefits package. Financial aid, such as basic SEOG and Pell, can be obtained due to need. There is an abundance of information about [best medical college](#) on the web.

What's important is more and more baby boomers are going to need more and more drugs as they go into their "golden years". Because of this, there is a growing need for people who will administer to this population. This makes the aide and technician's job incredibly secure for some time to come.

For so many, [online schools](#) are answering the needs they have. Flexibility and convenience to get the degrees they want, from associates all the way through to [medical school degrees](#) programs.

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