

## PHARMACY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION

**Licensing Authority** Diana Pirillo  
Pharmacy Examiners Board  
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**Legal Authority** Iowa Code 155A.6

**Job Description** Pharmacy technicians help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other healthcare products to patients. Technicians usually perform routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication for patients, such as counting tablets and labeling bottles. Technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist.

**Education & Experience Required** An applicant pharmacy technician in Iowa must apply to the Iowa Board of Pharmacy Examiners for registration. Applicants enrolled in a college-based pharmacy technician training program must also apply for registration.

There are no state or federal requirements for formal training or certification of pharmacy technicians. Most pharmacy technicians receive informal on-the-job training.

Formal pharmacy technician education programs require classroom and laboratory work in a variety of areas, including medical and pharmaceutical terminology, pharmaceutical calculations, pharmacy recordkeeping, pharmaceutical techniques, and pharmacy law and ethics. Technicians need strong mathematics, spelling and reading skills.

**Continuing Education** There are no continuing education requirements for renewal of pharmacy technician registration. However, pharmacy technicians who elect to complete and maintain national certification must complete 20 contact hours of pharmacy-related topics within the two-year certification period to become eligible for recertification. At least one contact hour must be in pharmacy law.

**Examination** There is no exam requirement for pharmacy technician registration in Iowa.

The National Pharmacy Technician Certification exam is administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. This exam and certification are voluntary.

**Fees** Registration: \$ 33

Certification: \$ 35 (National certification and certification renewal)  
Exam: \$120 (National certification exam)

**SOC Code, Title & Avg. Hourly Wage** 29-2052 – Pharmacy Technicians (\$10.24)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2002: 4,193  
2001: 4,063

**For Additional Information** Iowa Board of Pharmacy Web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/ibpe>  
Iowa Department of Public Health Web site: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>

Iowa Pharmacy Association  
8515 Douglas Ave Ste 16  
Des Moines IA 50322  
(515) 270-0713  
<http://www.iarx.org>

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board  
2215 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington DC 20037  
(202) 429-7576  
<http://www.ptcb.org>