



# Explore a Career as a **PHARMACY AIDE OR TECHNICIAN**

## Target Occupation Profile

### What do Pharmacy Aides and Technicians do?

Pharmacy aides and technicians work under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and perform many pharmacy-related functions. Technicians enter prescription and insurance information into a computer and fill prescriptions. Aides record drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs. Pharmacy aides and technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist. They work in a wide variety of practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, the military, in-home health care settings, long-term care facilities, mail service pharmacies, managed health care organizations, and educational programs.

### Training & Educational Opportunities

Most pharmacy aides need only a high school diploma or equivalent and receive on-the-job training. Pharmacy technicians need to complete training and earn a certificate. Coursework covers a variety of subjects, such as arithmetic used in pharmacies, recordkeeping, ways of dispensing medications, and pharmacy law and ethics. Technicians also learn the names, uses, and doses of medications.

### As a Pharmacy Aide or Technician you will:

- Accept payment for prescriptions and process insurance claims
- Answer phone calls from customers
- Collect information needed to fill a prescription from customers or healthcare professionals
- Measure amounts of medication for prescriptions
- Package and label prescriptions

### Pharmacy Aides and Technicians are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of pharmacy aides and technicians is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for these careers as growing much faster than average.

# Pharmacy Aide or Technician

## Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a pharmacy aide or technician.

To access a list of training providers for this occupation and many more, please visit [Illinoisworknet.com](http://Illinoisworknet.com) and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



## Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire pharmacy aides and technicians in Cook County, including:

- Drug stores
- Grocery stores
- Medical and surgical hospitals
- Pharmacies

## Wages & Openings

### Pharmacy Aide and Technician Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$9.35
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$13.87
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	192
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	187

\*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

## Opportunities

After completing on-the-job training or earning your certificate as a pharmacy aide or technician, you will have many opportunities for advancement and specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Nutrition Support Pharmacist
- Oncology Pharmacist
- Pediatric Pharmacist
- Pharmacist



Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

[workforceboard.org](http://workforceboard.org)

312.603.0200



CHICAGO COOK  
WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

