

Certificate in Pharmacy Technician

Level 5



Aim:

The programme aims to provide mature domestic and international learners with skills and qualifications which will enable them to work in New Zealand as a pharmacy technician.

Credits: 149 credits

Duration: 62 teaching weeks plus 8 study break weeks, and either 4 or 8 weeks of summer break depending on intake start date. Face to face learning activities / Clinical Placement are normally scheduled over 3 days per week.

Delivery: You can expect the following workload for the theory modules:

- 20 hours per week engaging in face-to-face learning activities.
- 10 hours per week completing independent study tasks.

You will complete 440 hours of practicum in a commercial healthcare setting. This is made up of 22 consecutive weeks of practicum.

Qualification gained:

This programme leads to the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Core) (Level 4) and the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Advanced) (Level 5).

Graduates will be able to work in a dispensing pharmacy under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. You will be able to work in a range of dispensary related roles including those in community, hospital, industrial and educational settings in pharmacy.

Career Pathways:

Students may pathway to further learning such as the NZ Diploma in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Specialist) (Level 6).

What will I learn?

We value holistic education and guidance. This programme includes classroom-based learning, self-directed learning, and clinical placement. At the end of this programme, you will be able to

- Understand the Pharmacy Council Code of Ethics
- Communicate with customers
- Apply the relevant pharmacy legislation and regulations.
- Apply an advanced level of knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and medicine used in the treatment of health disorders.
- Understand the use of and dispensing medicine services.





What will I earn?

Once you train to become a Pharmacy Technician you can expect to earn the following:

- Pharmacy technician trainees usually earn between minimum wage and \$45,000 a year.
- Qualified pharmacy technicians can earn between \$45,000 and \$52,000.
- Hospital pharmacy technicians who take on additional responsibilities can earn up to \$56,000.

Sources: Auckland District Health Boards/PSA, 'Allied, Public Health and Technical Multi-employer Collective Agreement, to October 2017; Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, 2017. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/health-and-community/health/pharmacy-technician/>

Entry requirements:

All students –

An interview is required to confirm suitability for entry into the programme.

Domestic students –

- 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3) qualification, OR a domestic or international bachelor's degree qualification in a health related field, OR comparable pharmacy qualification which will be determined through a review of the transcript of learning.

International students –

- 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3) qualification, OR a domestic or international bachelor degree qualification in a health related field, OR comparable pharmacy qualification which will be determined through a review of the transcript of learning.
- IELTS 5.5 with individual no bands less than 5.0 or equivalent as per the English Language Proficiency Requirements for International students determined by NZQA. These are specified in the table found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/nzqa-related-rules/the-table/>.

