

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Program: PHRM

Credential: Ontario College Diploma

Delivery: Full-time

Work Integrated Learning: 2 Field Placements

Length: 4 Semesters

Duration: 2 Years

Effective: Fall 2019, Winter 2020

Location: Barrie

Description

This program prepares graduates to work collaboratively with registered pharmacists and the interprofessional health care team within their scope of practice. Students will learn dispensing and compounding skills using knowledge from labs and supervised clinical practice. Courses focus on professionalism, relevant legislations, pathophysiology, and pharmacology, customer care, software systems, and principles of quality assurance. Students will utilize current technologies for an understanding of inventory control and customer service to accurately prepare and dispense medication. Guiding principles of safe medication practice; including aseptic technique, accurate calculations and labelling, use of current, credible sources of information are emphasized in lectures, simulated labs and community and institutional placements.

Career Opportunities

This program enables graduates to preregister with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and start the process of becoming licensed to practice as regulated pharmacy technician in Ontario. Graduates will also be eligible to write the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Qualifying Exam (www.pebc.ca) and the OCP jurisprudence examination (www.ocpinfo.com). Click on the links for timelines and fees for registration and exams. Registration with the Ontario College of Pharmacists is a legal requirement to practice and is subject to the regulations and restrictions established by this governing body. Registered pharmacy technicians are qualified to work in a variety of settings including community pharmacies, home health care companies, hospital pharmacies, pharmaceutical wholesalers, pharmacy software vendors, third party insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers.

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. practice in a professional and competent manner within the defined scope of practice and consistent with current regulations and standards of practice;
2. identify, select, implement and evaluate quality assurance standards and protocols which contribute to a safe and effective working environment;
3. establish and maintain professional and interprofessional relationships which contribute to patient care safety and positive health care outcomes;
4. process prescriptions accurately in compliance with pertinent legislation and established standards, policies and procedures in community and institutional practice settings;

5. prepare pharmaceutical products for dispensing in compliance with pertinent legislation and established standards, policies and procedures in community and institutional practice settings;
6. release pharmaceutical products in compliance with pertinent legislation and established standards, policies and procedures in community and institutional practice settings;
7. optimize medication therapy management and product distribution using current technologies in community and institutional practice settings;
8. develop and implement effective strategies for ongoing personal and professional development that support currency, competence, ethics and values in the pharmacy sector;
9. identify the implications of pharmacy technician on the natural environment and to employ environmentally sustainable practices to reduce the impact on the environment;
10. develop social entrepreneur skills to foster positive social change in the community.

External Recognition

The Pharmacy Technician program of Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology has been awarded the status of Full Accreditation by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs for a five year term (January 1st 2015- December 31st 2019). This enables graduates to preregister with the Ontario College of Pharmacists and start the process of becoming licensed to practice as regulated pharmacy technician in Ontario. Graduates will also be eligible to write the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Qualifying Exam (www.pebc.ca) and the OCP jurisprudence examination (www.ocpinfo.com). Click on the links for timelines and fees for registration and exams.

The Program Progression

Fall Intake

- **Sem 1:** Fall 2019
- **Sem 2:** Winter 2020
- **Sem 3:** Fall 2020
- **Sem 4:** Winter 2021

Winter Intake

- **Sem 1:** Winter 2020
- **Sem 2:** Summer 2020
- **Sem 3:** Winter 2021
- **Sem 4:** Summer 2021

Articulation

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program co-ordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional information can be found on our website at <http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/>

Admission Requirements

OSSD or equivalent with

- Grade 12 English (C or U)
- Grade 12 Mathematics (C or U)
- Grade 11 or 12 Biology (C or U)
- Grade 11 or 12 Chemistry (C or U)

Language Proficiency Requirement

The Pharmacy Technician Program is accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP).

The English proficiency requirement can be met through:

- Language proficiency test results that meet the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Language Proficiency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada, further information can be found on their website at: http://napra.ca/sites/default/files/2017-08/Language_Proficiency_Requirements_for_Licensure_PharmTech_Nov2009_Final.pdf ; or
- Graduation from high school in Canada with four consecutive, first language English courses or credits; or
- An undergraduate degree from a university in Canada, whose instruction was provided in English

For further information, refer to Georgian's English Language Proficiency policy 2.5 at: <http://georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures>

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/ (<http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/>)

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details:

www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/ (<http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/>)

Criminal Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check

Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference three months prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program coordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. It is the student's responsibility to provide the completed document prior to placement start.

NOTE: Individuals who have been charged or convicted criminally and not pardoned will be prohibited from proceeding to a clinical or work placement.

Additional Information

Certain clinical placements may require students to have updated flu shots, TB testing and Hepatitis B vaccination, Mask Fit Test (<http://www.synergy-employment.com/services/n95-mask-fit-testing/mask-fit-testing-faq>) (click for requirements), as well as a Police Record Check (including Vulnerable Sector Screening and a check of the Pardoned Sex Offender Data Base). It is the student's responsibility to ensure he or she is eligible to participate in clinical placements. The College assumes no responsibility for these matters and students should be aware that tuition will not be refunded in the event that access to a placement is denied. In addition to these requirements, applicants must also provide proof of a current First Aid and C.P.R. 'HCP' certification, prior to the commencement of preclinical courses. Registration with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) is mandatory to practice as a Pharmacy Technician in Ontario.

Applicants are advised that the clinical requirements of the program and future employment require good vision (with or without corrective lenses) and manual dexterity with repetitive motion.

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Graduation Requirements

- 22 Program Courses
- 2 Communications Courses
- 2 Practicum Placements
- 3 General Education Courses

Graduation Eligibility

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, from year to year, and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

Program Tracking

Course	Title	Hours
Semester 1		
Program Courses		
BIOL 1014	The Essential Body	42
COMP 1063	Community Pharmacy Computer Systems	42
MATH 1025	Pharmaceutical Calculations	28
PHRM 1000	Pharmacology Fundamentals	42
PHRM 1002	Community Pharmacy Dispensing Introductory Theory	42
PHRM 1007	Community Pharmacy Dispensing Introductory Lab	42
Communications Course		
Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.		42
General Education Courses		
Select 2 courses from the general education list during registration.		84
		Hours
		364
Semester 2		
Program Courses		
BIOL 1012	Drug Therapy and Pathophysiology 1	56
PHRM 1008	Community Pharmacy Dispensing Advanced Theory/Lab	56
PHRM 1009	Community Pharmacy Inventory Control	28
PHRM 1010	Non-Sterile Compounding Practices Lab	42
PHRM 2004	Legal Foundations and Professional Practice	42
Practicum Placement		
PHRM 1016	Practicum 1	200
		Hours
		424
Semester 3		
Program Courses		
BIOL 2010	Drug Therapy and Pathophysiology 2	42
COMP 2096	Hospital Pharmacy Computer Systems	42
MATH 2009	Pharmaceutical Calculations Advanced	28

PHRM 2009	Hospital Inventory Control	28
PHRM 2010	Hospital Dispensing Introductory Theory/Lab	56
PHRM 2011	Sterile Techniques Lab	42
Communications Course		
Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.		42
General Education Course		
Select 1 course from the general education list during registration.		42
Hours		322
Semester 4		
Program Courses		
BIOL 2011	Drug Therapy and Pathophysiology 3	42
PHRM 2006	Natural Health Products and Complementary Care	42
PHRM 2012	Advanced Compounding	28
PHRM 2013	Hospital Dispensing Advanced Theory/Lab	56
PHRM 2014	Pharmacy Practice and the Interprofessional Team	42
Practicum Placement		
PHRM 2015	Practicum 2	160
Hours		370
Total Hours		1480

Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of two years (as stated above) may take a maximum of four years to complete their credential. After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program, and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.