

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Psychiatric Technology Admission Packet

Contact Information:

Health Programs Admissions Office
850-484-2210
healthprograms@pensacolastate.edu

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Psychiatric Technology (Certificate Program)

The Psychiatric Technology program is a 450 clock hour program which provides an introduction to the health care industry specific to duties and responsibilities of a Psychiatric Technician, also known as Behavioral Techs or Mental Health Techs. This curriculum presents the foundational theory and skills necessary to gain entry-level employment as a mental health employee in psychiatric treatment facilities, residential treatment program, and other similar programs. Graduates of the program are eligible to take an examination to qualify as a Nationally Certified Psychiatric Technician through the American Association of Psychiatric Technicians. Additionally, graduates can certification as a Florida Certified Mental Health Professional. The Florida CMHP is an unlicensed practitioner who possesses competency in the providing direct services in mental health inpatient and outpatient settings.

Role of the Psychiatric Technician

Psychiatric Technicians care for people who have mental illness and developmental disabilities. Technicians help patients in their daily activities and ensure a safe, clean environment. For example:

- Monitoring patients' behavior and location in a mental healthcare facility
- Help patients with their daily living activities, such as bathing or dressing
- Serve meals and help patients eat
- Help keep facilities clean by doing tasks such as changing bed linens
- Interact with patients, leading them in educational or therapeutic activities
- Participate in group activities, such as playing sports or going on field trips
- Help transport patients within a hospital or residential care facility
- Restrain patients who may become physically violent

Many psychiatric technicians work with patients who are severely developmentally disabled and need intensive care. Others work with patients undergoing rehabilitation for drug and alcohol addiction. The work varies depending on the types of patients with which a technician works.

Psychiatric techs work as part of a medical team, under the direction of physicians and alongside other healthcare professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, and therapists, and psychiatric aides. Because they have such close contact with patients, psychiatric technicians can have a great deal of influence on patients' outlook and treatment.

Place of Employment

Psychiatric technicians work in psychiatric hospitals, residential programs, and mental health facilities, and related healthcare settings. They may spend much of their shift on their feet.

Psychiatric technicians held about 74,900 jobs in 2010. As shown below, about 39 percent of psychiatric technicians were employed by psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals, in 2010:

Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals; state, local, and private	39%
General medical and surgical hospitals; state, local, and private	11%
Residential mental retardation, mental health and substance abuse facilities	6%
Outpatient care centers	2%

Some of the work that psychiatric aides do may be unpleasant. They may care for patients whose illnesses make them disoriented, uncooperative, or violent.

Because their work requires many physically demanding tasks, such as lifting patients, psychiatric technicians have high rates of on-the-job injury. Psychiatric Technicians should be able to sit and stand for long periods of time and should expect to be able to assist in lifting, moving and restraining patients.

Psychiatric technicians may work full or part time. Because hospitals and residential facilities are open at all hours, many psychiatric aides work nights, weekends, and holidays.

State and National Earnings

Expected median earnings, for entry-level employment, in the local Escambia and Santa Rosa County area is \$10.04 per hour. (SOURCE: Economic Modeling Specialists International report, Aug 12, 2013).

Training Pathway

The Psychiatric Technology Program is a 450-clock hour program divided into both classroom, and clinical settings.

OCP	Course Number	Course Title	Course Length	SOC Code
A	HSC0003	Basic Healthcare Worker	90 hours	31-9099
B	HCP0852	Psychiatric Aide	180 hours	29-2053
	HCP0852L	Psychiatric Aide (Clinical)	180 hours	

This program may be offered as a day program or as a weekend/evening program; theory in one semester and the clinical component in the next semester. Clinical site placement is dependent upon the results criminal background check.

OCP courses A and B may be taken in sequence or concurrently.

Beyond Graduation

Graduates of Pensacola State College’s Psychiatric Technology program may advance in their field by continuing their education in other health related areas such as nursing or other direct and indirect patient care degree programs at Pensacola State College.

Career Outlook

Employment of psychiatric technicians is expected to increase 15 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

As the nation’s population ages and people live longer, there is likely to be an increase in the number of people with cognitive mental diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease. Demand for psychiatric technicians in residential facilities is expected to rise as a result.

More psychiatric technicians and aides will also be needed in residential treatment facilities for people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse problems. There is a long-term trend toward treating psychiatric patients outside of hospitals, because it is more cost-effective and allows patients greater independence. Also, an increasing number of mentally disabled adults who were cared for by their parents will need help as their parents become too old to provide that care.

In addition, an aging prison population has increased the need for psychiatric technicians working in correctional facilities.

Employment projections data for psychiatric technicians and aides, 2010-20 Occupational Title SOC Code Employment, 2010 Projected Employment, 2020 Change, 2010-20 Employment by Industry

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2010	Projected Employment, 2020	Change, 2010-20	
				Percent	Numeric
Psychiatric Technicians	29-2053	74,900	86,400	15	11,600

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Citation:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, Psychiatric Technicians and Aides, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/psychiatric-technicians-and-aides.htm> (visited August 20, 2013).

Entrance Requirements

- High school diploma or GED
- 18 years of age or older
- Negative urine drug screen and level 2 background check

Testing Requirements

TABE scores of 9 or higher in the categories of Reading, Mathematics, and Language are required for successful completion of the program. If a student scores less than the minimum required score, the student will be advised for self-remediation or tutoring services. The TABE is required for entry into a program; however, the test is an exit requirement. This means that a student who does not achieve the minimum required score will not receive credit for the OCP or the certificate, until the TABE score is met.

Exemption for the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) in any clock hour program:

- Students who possess a college degree at the associate of applied science level or higher
- Any student who entered 9th grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high school diploma or a student serving as an active duty member of any branch of the of the United States Armed Services

Estimated Cost of the Program

The Psychiatric Technology program consists of 15 credits @ \$85.80 + fees = Total \$1,287.00 in-state

Additional Expenses (approximate):

Books	\$118.00
Uniforms	\$ 85.00
Immunizations & Physical	\$300.00
Lab Fees (drug screen & background check)	\$ 96.00

Tuition rates are subject to change, contact Registrar office for current cost.

Semester	Required Courses	Credits
I	Basic Health Care Worker	3
	Psychiatric Aide	6
II	Psychiatric Aide Clinical	6
Total		15

Financial Aid

Students requiring financial assistance are directed to the Office of Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs (OFA & VA) (850)484-2349 for information on numerous grants, and scholarships available. Short-term loans are available at registration. Inquiries should be directed to the Student Affairs Office on the Warrington Campus. Students needing assistance for an education are encouraged to seek every avenue of financial aid available for that purpose. Financial counseling, as well as help with the application process, is available. Students needing financial assistance must contact the Financial Aid office as soon as the need is determined.

This publication is to provide general career and program information and is not to be construed as a contract between the student and Pensacola State College. The student is encouraged to work closely with counselors, and the department, to verify the appropriateness of courses for registration.

STUDENT CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION

Date when completed

- _____ Complete and submit the Pensacola State College application (\$30) for general admission.
- _____ Complete the Florida Residency Affidavit (if applicable).
- _____ Request high school transcripts
- _____ Request all college transcripts
- _____ Complete the health-related program application and submit it to the Admissions Office on the Warrington Campus.
- _____ Complete test requirements – TABE – for consideration into the Psychiatric Technology Program; if required.

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

TO: REGISTRAR

Name of High School, College or University

Address of School

City

State

Zip Code

Please forward an official transcript of my academic work:

_____ College Transcript

_____ High School Record (showing graduation date or date of withdrawal)

_____ General Education Development Test Scores (GED)

_____ Transient Student Form/Letter of Good Standing (for non-degree transient students)

Mail transcript to:

**Admissions Office
Pensacola State College
1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504-8998**

The following information is furnished to assist you in locating my records:

Name _____

Name used when attending the institution listed above

Birthdate _____ Social Security Number _____

Date of Graduation _____ Date of Last Attendance _____

Current Address _____

City

State

Zip Code

If there is a fee for this service, please bill me at the address shown above.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

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