INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Pharmacy Technician Program

ADMISSION & APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM

Class Begins: **Spring 2026**

For more information

IRSC Information Call Center
1-866-792-4772

www.irsc.edu

IRSC OVERVIEW

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE (IRSC) is a public, comprehensive college with a statewide and national reputation for excellence. Located in Florida's Treasure Coast region, each of the College's five campuses provide unparalleled educational environments.

IRSC serves approximately 30,000 students annually and offers more than 100 programs leading to Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Continuing a 60-year tradition of responsiveness to community needs, IRSC is committed to advancing educational, cultural, career training, workforce and economic development in its service area.

IRSC was distinguished as the 2019 winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, an honor that recognizes outstanding quality in the areas of completion & transfer, labor market outcomes, learning, equity and more. IRSC is one of the few colleges in the nation to earn the Achieving the Dream™ Leader College designation. The College is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country.

EA/EO STATEMENT

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Adriene B. Jefferson, Dean of Northwest Center
Equity Officer & Title IX Coordinator,
IRSC Massey Campus ▪ 3209 Virginia Ave. ▪ Fort Pierce, FL 34981
772-462-7101

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Forms:

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

The Indian River State College Pharmacy Technician program is a certificate program which prepares students to assist a pharmacist with the technical tasks that take place in the pharmacy. Under the direct supervision of a pharmacist, the graduates from this program are qualified to work as a Pharmacy Technician in retail, hospital and other health care settings, performing duties such as interpreting prescription orders, maintaining patient records, packaging and labeling medications, maintaining drug supplies, preparing sterile and non-sterile products and performing computer data entries. Program completers sit for the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. Pharmacy technicians who successfully pass the exam are *Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhT).*

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Necessary forms can be found in the back of this booklet.

1. Complete the Indian River State College Application for the Pharmacy Technician program online at www.irsc.edu and pay the $30 non -fundable fee.

2. Have a Standard High School Diploma or GED.

3. Submit **official and final** high school or GED transcript(s), and forward to the office of Student Records by the **application deadline date**.

4. Meet with an IRSC Academic advisor to review program requirements.

5. Read the Pharmacy Technician Core Performance Standards.

6. **Must be 18 years of age by start of the first clinical rotation** (August 1st).

7. Submit a copy of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support CPR card. Card should be valid for the length of the program.

8. If **TABE** is required, the applicant must take and meet the score requirements. **Meet with an advisor for TABE requirements and exemption.**

9. View the **Information Presentation Video** on the Pharmacy Technician webpage.

10. Applicants are provisionally accepted on a **first-come, first-served** basis pending successful completion of the items listed on the checklist by the application deadline date.

Provisionally accepted applicants are notified to register for classes and complete the following for **FINAL** acceptance.

I. Mandatory drug screening and a National criminal background check (fingerprinting).

II. Complete Physical Exam with immunizations documented and proof of personal health insurance.

Satisfactory results of these final requirements must be on file in the Health Science Division Office by the first day of class in order to remain enrolled in the program.

INTRODUCTION

The Pharmacy Technician program is offered through the IRSC Health Science Division. All applicants enter this program through a Selective Admissions process. Contact the Health Sciences Division at (772) 462-7550, for specific requirements and deadlines.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Any candidate who wishes to be considered for the Pharmacy Technician program at Indian River State College, must complete the procedures outlined on the application checklist.

It is the student's responsibility to see that admission requirements are met. No notices will be sent.

APPLYING TO THE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Prior to beginning the application process:

1. Read the Pharmacy Technician Application Booklet.
2. Complete and submit the IRSC Application for the Pharmacy Technician program ($30 fee; keep a copy of your receipt).

Note: If at any time during the application process you have a change in personal information (name change, address, phone number, or emails), submit the changes through MyPioneerPortal and to the Health Science Division at 772-462-7550.

APPLICANT REVIEW

Students are selected on a competitive basis and consideration for admission into the IRSC Pharmacy Technician program will be based upon review of the following criteria:

1. Student must be 18 years of age by the start of their first clinical rotation
   (18 years old by August 1st)
2. Must have a standard high school diploma, GED or equivalent
3. IRSC Application for the Pharmacy Technician program.
4. Students are required to view the online Information Session video on the Pharmacy Technician webpage.
5. Copy of CPR card Basic Life Support (BLS) from the American Heart Association.

TABE REQUIREMENTS

It is strongly advised that students requiring the TABE test begin this process during the application period and continue until the required passing score is achieved in all areas of reading, math and language.

TABE requirements must be met for program completion unless the student qualifies for an exemption. Students should meet with an advisor to determine their status.

ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Pharmacy Technician applicants are provisionally accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, pending successful completion of checklist items on page 1 by the application deadline. Students will then be notified to register for classes and complete a drug screen, criminal background check and a physical with immunizations documented for final acceptance. Details regarding these final requirements are outlined below.

NON-ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Applicants who do not qualify for the program will be notified. Contact the Office of the Dean of Health Science (772) 462-7550 for clarification on how to strengthen your application.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Visit www.irsc.edu. Click **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major.** Go to **Pharmacy Technician Program and** select **Program Expenses.**

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid (grants, loans, work-study) is available to those who qualify. Complete the *FAFSA and IRSC Supplemental Financial Aid Application* to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at (772) 462-7450 or toll-free at 1-866-900-3243 (FAID).

Scholarships designated for students in the Health Science programs may also be available. *Scholarship Applications are* available via MyPioneerPortal. The **application deadline** for IRSC Health Science scholarship is in May.

For additional information regarding scholarships, contact the Scholarship Development Coordinator; Sherri Monds at smonds@irsc.edu.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

In order to obtain the certificate of completion, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Successfully complete program requirements.

- Students must not have any financial holds and all fees must be paid for by the student.

- Students must comply with TABE (A Level) requirements or have an A.A. Degree, A.S. Degree or higher degree or qualify for an exemption under Senate Bill 1720.

Upon completing the specified requirements, the student is eligible to be granted a certificate of completion from Indian River State College and apply to take the Certification. Information on the exam will be provided during the Pharmacy Technician program

The College provides a formal ceremony to recognize the graduates' completion of the Pharmacy Technician program. Students will be notified of the date, time and place when it is set by the College.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM CURRICULUM
(1050 HOURS)
SELECTIVE ADMISSION

For more information, visit www.irsc.edu. Click **Quick Links** and select **Course Catalog.** From the Contents list, select **Career and Technical Education Programs**. Scroll down and select **Pharmacy Technician.**

Drug Screen, Background Check/ Health and Medical Records

Applicants who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to a Health Science program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record verified by a licensed physician or an ARNP must be submitted.

Indian River State College and partnering clinical sites require all health science students who register for clinical courses to have personal health insurance. Students will be asked to show proof of personal health insurance by presenting their insurance policy number, the name of the insurance provider and the telephone number of the provider to clinical preceptors or administrators**.**

If students do not have health insurance or do not provide proof of health insurance, they will not be eligible for clinic rotation which will result in termination from program. Personal health insurance may be purchased through the Health and Wellness Department. Call them at (772) 462-7825 for more information.

When submitted, these records will become the property of the College, and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers. Students who are out of the program for six months or more must submit new records.

Substance Use/Abuse Regulation

Refer to the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu. Click **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major.** Go to **Pharmacy Technician** and select **Background Check and Drug Screening Requirements.**

JOB OUTLOOK

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook, good job opportunities for pharmacy technicians are expected for full-time and part-time work, especially for technicians with formal training or previous experience. Job openings for pharmacy technicians will result from the expansion of retail pharmacies and other employment settings and from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or leave the labor force.

Employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to <u>grow much faster than the average</u> for all occupations through 2031 because as the population grows and ages, demand for pharmaceuticals will increase dramatically. The increased number of middle-aged and elderly people will spur demand for technicians in all practice settings. With advances in science, more medications are becoming available to treat a greater number of conditions.

In additional, cost-conscious insurers, pharmacies and health systems will continue to expand the role of technicians. As a result, pharmacy technicians will assume responsibility for some of the more routine tasks previously performed by pharmacists. Pharmacy technicians also will need to learn and master new pharmacy technology as it emerges. For example, robotic machines are being increasingly used to dispense medicine into containers; technicians must oversee the machines, stock the bins and label the containers. Thus, while automation is increasingly incorporated into the job, it will not necessarily reduce the need for technicians.

Almost all states have legislated the maximum number of technicians who can safely work under a pharmacist at one time. In some states, technicians have assumed more medication-dispensing duties as pharmacists have become more involved in-patient care, resulting in more technicians per pharmacist. Changes in these laws could directly affect employment.

*Note: Florida Statute #465.014 states the Board shall establish guidelines to be followed by licensees or permittes in determining the circumstances under which a licensed pharmacist may supervise more than one, but not more than three, pharmacy technicians.

EARNINGS

Median Hourly Earnings: $19.37/hr. (or $40,300/yr.)

Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook

Certified technicians may earn more. Shift differentials for working evenings or weekends also can increase earnings. Some technicians belong to unions representing hospital or grocery store workers.

Upon completion of the IRSC Pharmacy Technician program, students are prepared to sit for the National Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) exam.

CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Pharmacy Technician students will be expected to meet the technical standards that are necessary to perform the "essential functions" of a Pharmacy Technician. Technological compensation can be made for disabilities in certain areas, but candidates should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner, with or without accommodation. These technical standards are as follows:

-Strength: Moderate muscular strength is needed. In the course of the program, the PT student may be: pushing, pulling and lifting objects more than 20 Lbs.

-Observation: The student must be able to observe and participate in lectures, demonstrations, research and practice situations in pharmacy.

-Motor Skills: The PT student should possess the ability to safely and accurately perform all laboratory procedures, manipulate tools, instruments and other equipment in the laboratory. In the course of the program, the PT student may be: performing simple motor skills such as standing, walking, etc.; performing simple manipulative skills such as washing, writing, counting tablets, etc.; performing moderately difficult manipulative skills such as preparing IV admixtures, non-sterile compounds, etc.

-Coordination: In the course of the program, the PT student may be: performing body coordination such as walking, stooping, etc.; performing tasks that require hand-eye coordination such as keyboard skills, etc.; and performing tasks that require arm-hand steadiness such as IV admixtures, etc.

-Mobility: The student should be able to move from place to place in the performance of his or her work. In the course of the program, the PT student may be: walking and standing; sitting and standing for prolonged periods;

-Communication: The PT student must be able to communicate clearly and effectively in English with patients, teachers and all members of the health care team. Written and oral communication must use standard, professional medical terminology. Communication includes speech, hearing, reading, writing and computer literacy. Individual patient care and communication must be performed regardless of the patient's race, ethnic group, age, gender, religious or political preference, ability to pay, gender or sexual orientation.

-Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: The student must be able to read and understand written documents in English and to solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, memory, analysis and synthesis. The student must have the capacity to demonstrate full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, emotional stability, exercise good judgment under stressful situations and promptly complete all responsibilities.

-Visual Discrimination: The student should be able to read computer screens, prescriptions, and reports, read instrument scales, discriminate colors, read materials and record results. In the course of the program, the PT student may be required to: see objects far away as in driving; see objects closely as in automation machine screens.

-Speech and Hearing: The student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively in order to assess both verbal and non-verbal communication; be able to adequately receive and transmit information to the patient and to members of the health care team; and hear normal sound with some background noise.

-Mental Requirements: The PT student should possess the emotional stability and health needed for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities. The student must be free of mind-altering drugs, including alcohol and must be able to recognize emergency situations and take appropriate action.

-Health and Related Requirements: The student is required to provide current proof of having met all health-related requirements prior to participating in any clinical activities. The student is responsible for maintaining all personal health records including current immunizations, CPR (American Heart Association BLS for Health Care Providers), and health insurance. All entering students are required to complete a background check prior to entering the Pharmacy Technician program and as requested throughout the program in compliance with the affiliation agreement for the clinical agency and community standards for disqualifying offenses. This may include a drug screen to comply with a clinical agency requirement. The student may be required to complete a physical exam in compliance with clinical agency affiliation agreement. Certain chronic or recurrent illnesses and problems that could interfere with patient care or safety may be incompatible with health science education or practice. Some illnesses may lead to a higher likelihood of student absences and should carefully be considered. Deficiencies in knowledge, judgment, integrity or professional attitude may jeopardize patient care, and as a result could become grounds for course failure and possible dismissal from the Pharmacy Technician program.

-Environmental Conditions: The PT student may be exposed at different times to: hazardous materials, needles, cytotoxic medications, glass ampules, etc.

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INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

STUDENT NAME _____ STUDENT ID _____

I have attached the following items: (mark off items submitted with a check mark)

_____ CPR Card ONLY American Heart Association Basic Life Support Level Will be accepted (Must be valid throughout the program).

Please clearly print your name and student ID on each piece of paper submitted. All documentation must be submitted in order with this cover page on top and stapled in the upper left corner. Portfolio covers, folders and binders <u>will not</u> be accepted.

Please submit cover sheet with supplemental documents to Health Science.

Pharmacy Technician Department
Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34981-5596