

# Louisiana Administrative Code

## Title 46 – Professional and Occupational Standards

### Part LIII: Pharmacists

#### Chapter 9. Pharmacy Technicians

##### §901. Definitions

A. As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section:

*ACPE* – Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

*Pharmacist Preceptor* – an individual who is currently licensed as a pharmacist by the board, meets certain qualifications as established by the board, and is responsible for the instructional training of pharmacy technician candidates.

*CPE* – continuing pharmaceutical education, as part of a postgraduate educational program to enhance professional competence.

*CPE unit* – a standard of measurement adopted by the ACPE for the purpose of accreditation of CPE programs. One CPE unit is equivalent to 10 credit hours.

*Pharmacy Technician* – an individual, certified by the board, who assists in the practice of pharmacy under the direct and immediate supervision of a Louisiana-licensed pharmacist.

*Pharmacy Technician Candidate* – an individual not yet certified as a pharmacy technician by the board who is:

- a. an individual who possesses a valid registration, is satisfactorily progressing in a board-approved structured program, and is working under the supervision of a pharmacist preceptor for the purpose of obtaining practical experience for certification as a pharmacy technician by the board; or
- b. an individual who possesses a valid registration, has successfully completed a board-approved structured program, and is awaiting examination.

*Structured Program* – systematic instruction in pharmacy related functions in a board-approved pharmacy technician training program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 30:2485 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005.

##### §903. Pharmacy Technician Candidates

A. Registration

1. Qualifications

- a. All pharmacy technician candidates shall register with the board; failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the board.
- b. The candidate shall be at least 18 years of age, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of a birth certificate or other appropriate credential.
- c. The candidate shall be of good moral character and non-impaired.
- d. The candidate shall be a graduate from a high school approved by a state department of education, or shall possess an equivalent degree of education, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of a diploma, transcript, or other appropriate credential.
- e. Exceptions:
  - i. A pharmacist or pharmacist intern whose board credential has been denied, suspended, revoked, or restricted for disciplinary reasons by any board of pharmacy shall not be a pharmacy technician candidate or pharmacy technician.
  - ii. A pharmacist or pharmacist intern whose board credential is lapsed shall not be a pharmacy technician candidate or pharmacy technician until such lapsed credential is recalled through non-disciplinary board action.

2. Issuance and Maintenance

- a. Upon receipt of a properly completed application, appropriate fee, proof of enrollment in a board-approved structured program, and any other documentation

required by the board, the board may issue a Pharmacy Technician Candidate Registration to the applicant.

- b. The board reserves the right to refuse to issue, recall, or discipline a registration for cause.
- c. The registration shall expire 18 months after the date of issuance, and it shall not be renewable.
- d. A pharmacy technician candidate shall notify the board, in writing, no later than 10 days following a change of mailing address. The written notice shall include the candidate's name, registration number, and old and new addresses.
- e. A pharmacy technician candidate shall notify the board, in writing, no later than 10 days following a change in either training program site or location(s) of employment. The written notice shall include the candidate's name, registration number, and name, address, and permit numbers for old and new training program sites or employers.

B. Structured Program

1. All structured programs shall meet competency standards as established by the board.
2. The curriculum of the structured program shall be composed of the elements contained in the *Pharmacy Technician Training Program Minimum Competencies*, as approved by the board.
3. The structured program shall notify the board when a pharmacy technician candidate is no longer satisfactorily progressing in the program.
4. The structured program shall provide an appropriate credential to the candidate who has successfully completed the program.

C. Practical Experience

1. The candidate shall possess a registration prior to earning any practical experience in a pharmacy.
2. The candidate's registration shall be conspicuously displayed in the prescription department.
3. The candidate shall wear appropriate attire and be properly identified as to name and candidate status while on duty in the prescription department.
4. A candidate shall not work in a permitted site that is on probation with the board, or with a pharmacist who is on probation with the board.
5. The candidate's registration shall evidence his authority to earn a minimum of 600 hours of practical experience in a pharmacy, under the supervision of a pharmacist preceptor, in satisfaction of the requirements for pharmacy technician certification. Of the required minimum 600 hours, not less than 200 hours shall be earned during and as part of a structured program.
6. A candidate may receive board credit for a maximum of 50 hours per week.
7. Hours of practical experience earned by a candidate shall expire one year after the expiration date of the registration.

D. Examination

1. A board-approved technician examination shall consist of integrated pharmacy subject matter and any other disciplines the board may deem appropriate in order to permit the candidate to demonstrate his competency. The candidate shall achieve a passing score, as determined by the board.
2. Re-examination
  - a. Following the first or second unsuccessful attempt of an examination, the candidate may be permitted to retake that examination.
  - b. Following the third unsuccessful attempt of an examination, the candidate shall wait one year after the date of the last examination to retake that examination. If the candidate fails to wait the prescribed one year period, the board may delay any future certification until that one year period has elapsed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October 1988), effective January 1, 1989, repromulgated LR 19:1025 (August 1993), amended LR 23:1307 (October 1997), LR 30:2485 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005.

## §905. Pharmacy Technician Certificate

### A. Qualifications

1. An applicant for a pharmacy technician certificate shall be at least 18 years of age, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of a birth certificate or other appropriate credential.
2. An applicant shall be of good moral character and non-impaired.
3. An applicant shall demonstrate the following educational competencies:
  - a. shall be a graduate from a high school approved by a state department of education, or shall possess an equivalent degree of education, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of a diploma, transcript, or other appropriate credential; and
  - b. shall have successfully completed a board-approved structured program for pharmacy technician education and training, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of the appropriate credential from that program.
4. An applicant shall demonstrate evidence of at least 600 hours of practical experience under the supervision of a pharmacist preceptor, using a form supplied by the board.
5. An applicant shall demonstrate successful completion of a board-approved technician examination, as evidenced by a valid and legible copy of the appropriate credential.

### B. Issuance and Maintenance

1. Upon receipt of a properly completed and notarized application, properly executed preceptor affidavit(s), copies of valid and legible credentials, and the appropriate fee, and following verification that all requirements have been satisfied, the board may issue a pharmacy technician certificate to the applicant for the current renewal period.
2. The board reserves the right to refuse to issue, recall, or discipline a certificate for cause.
3. The annual renewal shall expire and become null and void on June 30 of each year.
  - a. The board shall mail, no later than May 1 of each year, an application for renewal to all pharmacy technicians to the address of record.
  - b. The completed application, along with the appropriate fee, shall be submitted to the board by June 30 of each year.
  - c. A pharmacy technician shall not assist in the practice of pharmacy in Louisiana with an expired renewal.
  - d. An application for an expired pharmacy technician renewal, along with the appropriate fee, shall be submitted to the board's Reinstatement Committee for consideration.
4. A pharmacy technician shall notify the board, in writing, no later than 10 days following a change of mailing address. The written notice shall include the technician's name, certificate number, and old and new addresses.
5. A pharmacy technician shall notify the board, in writing, no later than 10 days following a change in location(s) of employment. The written notice shall include the technician's name, certificate number, and name, address, and permit numbers for old and new employers.
6. Upon written request of any certified pharmacy technician in active military service of the United States or any of its allies, the board may waive the requirement for the annual renewal of the certificate, including fees.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October 1988), effective January 1, 1989, repromulgated LR 19:1025 (August 1993), LR 30:2486 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005.

## §907. Scope of Practice

A. Pharmacy technician candidates and pharmacy technicians may assist the pharmacist by performing those duties and functions assigned by the pharmacist while under his direct and immediate supervision.

1. The ratio of candidates to pharmacists on duty shall not exceed one to one at any given time.
2. The ratio of technicians to pharmacists on duty shall not exceed two to one at any given time. However, the ratio of technicians to pharmacists on duty may be increased to three to one if no technician candidates are on duty at the same time.

B. Pharmacy technician candidates shall not:

1. receive verbal initial prescription orders;
2. give or receive verbal transfers of prescription orders;

Wait a second, you just said not more than two to one!!!

3. interpret prescription orders (however, a technician candidate may translate prescription orders);
  4. compound high-risk sterile preparations, as defined by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), or its successor.
  5. counsel patients.
- C. Pharmacy technicians shall not:
1. release a verbal prescription order for processing until it is reduced to written form and initialed by the receiving technician and supervising pharmacist;
  2. interpret prescription orders (however, a technician may translate prescription orders);
  3. compound high-risk sterile preparations, as defined by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), or its successor;
  4. counsel patients.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 30:2486 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005, amended LR 32:1049 (June 2006).

### §909. Continuing Education

- Just like pharmacists
- A. A minimum of one ACPE or board-approved CPE unit, or 10 credit hours, shall be required each year as a prerequisite for annual renewal of a pharmacy technician certificate. Such CPE units shall be credited in the 12-month period prior to the expiration date of the certificate.
  - B. Certified pharmacy technicians shall maintain copies of their individual records of personal CPE activities at their primary practice site for at least 2 years, and shall present them when requested by the board.
  - C. If judged appropriate by the board, some or all of the required number of hours may be mandated on specific subjects. When so deemed, the board shall notify all certified pharmacy technicians prior to the beginning of the renewal year in which the CPE is required.
  - D. Complete compliance with CPE rules is a prerequisite for renewal of a pharmacy technician certificate.
    1. Non-compliance with the CPE requirements shall be considered a violation of R.S. 37:1241(A)(2) and shall constitute a basis for the board to refuse annual renewal.
    2. The failure to maintain an individual record of personal CPE activities, or falsifying CPE documents, shall be considered a violation of R.S. 37:1241(A)(22).
    3. The inability to comply with CPE requirements shall be substantiated by a written explanation, supported with extraordinary circumstances, and submitted to the board for consideration.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October 1988), effective January 1, 1989, amended LR 17:779 (August 1991), repromulgated LR 19:1025 (August 1993), amended LR 23:1308 (October 1997), LR 30:2487 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005.

### §911. Impairment

- A. Pharmacy technician candidates and pharmacy technicians shall be non-impaired.
- B. Pharmacy technician candidates and pharmacy technicians who have knowledge that a pharmacist, pharmacist intern, pharmacy technician candidate, or pharmacy technician is impaired shall notify the board of that fact.
- C. Pharmacy technician candidates and pharmacy technicians shall be subject to a medical evaluation for impairment by a board-approved addictionist, as authorized by the Louisiana Pharmacy Practice Act, R.S. 37:1161 *et seq.*

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1212.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October 1988), effective January 1, 1989, amended LR 17:779 (August 1991), repromulgated LR 19:1025 (August 1993), amended 23:1308 (October 1997), LR 30:2487 (November 2004), effective January 1, 2005.