

## Pharmacy Technician Bridging- *Online Part-Time*

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

This online program is designed as a pathway for pharmacy assistants to advance their careers in the field of pharmacy practice. Studying remotely and training in their workplaces, these students will develop “hands-on” skills necessary to be employed as registered Pharmacy Technicians in community and hospital pharmacies. Students gain knowledge relevant to the technical and clerical aspects of the pharmacy profession, including inventory maintenance, record keeping, pharmacy equipment, compounding, and prescription preparation.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Upon completion of this program, the graduate will have met the academic requirements necessary to pursue licensure as a Pharmacy Technician. Successful completion of additional exams through PEBC.ca as well as a postgrad structured practical experience program and a provincial jurisprudence exam are also required prior to licensure in Nova Scotia.

### PREREQUISITES

1. Student has Grade 12 or equivalent.
2. Proof of a minimum 2000 hours of experience working as a Pharmacy Assistant within the previous 3 years.
3. Language proficiency requirement as per the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA).

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students require a Windows OS (PC) based computer and high-speed broadband internet connection. It is the responsibility of students to

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ensure they have access to a reliable internet connection and functioning PC: a lack of internet connection or PC will not be considered an acceptable reason for non-completion of course work.

PC minimum requirements:

- Windows 8 or newer (Windows 10 preferred)
- 1.6 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 2-core, 4GB RAM, 4GB free HD
- Various web browsers may be required to participate in coursework, i.e. Firefox, Chrome, Edge. Internet Explorer is not recommended.

If you have an Apple (Mac):

- Compatible operating systems include OS X
- Web browsers supported include Firefox, Chrome or Safari

Your computer must be equipped to view multimedia presentations (video and audio) with speakers/headphones and a webcam and microphone (either integrated or USB) to participate using web conferencing software like Microsoft Teams or Adobe Connect.

While mobile devices may allow some participation in an online course, functionality may be limited, and they are not guaranteed to meet all your coursework needs. We recommend students do not attempt assignments or quizzes when using a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet, due to compatibility issues.

As an active registered Eastern College student, you will receive licensed access to Microsoft Office 365 at no additional cost. Individual courses may have additional software requirements such as programs for playing audio or video, or a specific software application such as Excel. In some courses, it may be necessary to install specific software used in the course on your computer.

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### EXAM PROCTORING

While studying online, there will be several courses that will require a final exam or assessment that is proctored to ensure academic integrity is maintained. Students will have two options:

Option 1 – students complete the exam from home with remote proctoring. Students will be recorded and observed during the exam using Proctorio remote exam proctoring. Students must write the exam on the computer that meets the minimum system requirements as outlined above.

Option 2 – student may come in-to any Eastern College campus and write the exam in person. If you would like to write the exam in person, you will need to schedule this time in advance with your instructor.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate and receive a diploma, a student must obtain an overall grade of at least 70% in each module. An exception to this is the entrance to practice exam which will be completed during the Product Preparation module where a grade of 100% is required.

(The zero-tolerance exam is a requirement of all pharmacy technician programs that are accredited through the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) and is included as a requirement for the Pharmacy Technician Bridging Program as well or ensure all technicians have met this standard regardless of their path to licensure)

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

<b>Course</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Weeks</b>
Professional Practice	39	13
Pharmacology	33	11
Product Preparation	33	11
Management of Drug Distribution Systems	39	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>

\*Classes run 3 hours per week

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Professional Practice**

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Students will be prepared for entry to practice in four main areas of focus: ethics and professionalism, legal requirements, scope of practice, and communication skills. Through a variety of learning tools, the student will enhance their ability to practice competently within the professional practice framework.

### **Pharmacology**

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This course provides a practical, applied approach to pharmacology. Through a variety of learning tools such as assignments, quizzes, case studies, and group work, the student will enhance their ability to practice competently and contribute to a safe patient care setting. Participants will gain basic knowledge related to the pharmacological uses of drugs within a variety of commonly encountered medical conditions.

### **Product Preparation**

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This course addresses the theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for safe and accurate preparation of sterile and non-sterile pharmaceutical products. For non-sterile preparation, students will focus on compounding practices for various internal and external preparations and specialty dosage forms, equipment and tools, professional guidelines, standards and legislation, pharmaceutical calculations, and documentation requirements. For sterile product preparation, areas of emphasis include infection control, aseptic technique, parenteral dosage forms, accurate calculations, appropriate use of equipment, and quality control. Best practices associated with the preparation of TPN and antineoplastics are also covered.

### **Management of Drug Distribution Systems**

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This course will examine various drug distribution systems in pharmacy practice and prepare learners to effectively manage operations in different practice settings to ensure safe and effective drug supply and distribution. Learners will explore distributive functions in institutional settings, as well as common drug plans and their formularies, adjudication challenges, inventory management elements, and common business practices. Accurate product release within the parameters of the pharmacy technician role receives special emphasis.

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