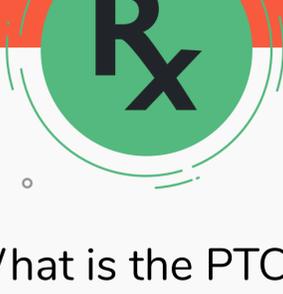




# The Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE)

[What you need to know]



## What is the PTCE?

The PTCE is an exam offered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). By passing the exam, a pharmacy technician is considered certified, which is a requirement for employment in many states. Students earn the credentials CPhT - Certified Pharmacy Technician.

### 01 Exam Structure



The PTCE is 90 questions long, 80 of which are scored and 10 are not (these unscored questions are not identified).



A total of two hours are allotted for the exam - 1 hour and 50 minutes are allowed for the 90 questions, while the remaining 10 minutes are utilized for a beginning tutorial and final survey.



To pass the exam, you must earn a score of 1400 (within a range of possible scores of 1000-1600).

The cost to take the PTCE is \$129. Applicants must fulfill specific eligibility requirements and apply online. Once the application is approved, individuals have 90 days to take the exam.

Since the PTCE is a computer-based exam, scheduling can be completed online or by phone and is dependent upon local test center availability.

### 02 New for 2020

Starting January 1, 2020, the PTCB will require either the completion of a PTCB-recognized education or training program or the equivalent in work experience to qualify to take the PTCE. For more information, visit PTCB's website at [www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org).



### 03 Exam Content



The PTCE consists of four domains, each one divided into sub-domains or knowledge areas. Each domain has a specific percentage of content allotted for questions on the exam.

| Domain | Knowledge Domain                     | % of PTCE Content | # of Knowledge Areas |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | Medications                          | 40                | 10                   |
| 2      | Federal Requirements                 | 12.5              | 5                    |
| 3      | Patient Safety and Quality Assurance | 26.25             | 6                    |
| 4      | Order Entry and Processing           | 21.25             | 5                    |

### 04 About Each Section



#### Medications

Domain focuses on the components of medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications and herbal or dietary supplements.



#### Federal Requirements

Includes several important regulations and standards, including handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous substances.



#### Patient Safety and Quality

Includes safety strategies, such as error-prone abbreviations and using **tall man lettering**. It also contains look-alike/sound-alike and high-alert or high-risk medications, and error event reporting procedures.



#### Order Entry and Processing

Section contains processes required when compounding nonsterile products, including calculations known as **alligations**. Also includes knowledge of lot numbers, expiration dates, understanding National Drug Code (NDC) numbers, and equipment.

### 05 Other Things to Note



Two agencies currently offer an exam for pharmacy technician certification: the PTCB and National Healthcareer Association (NHA).



To be certified is not the same as being licensed or registered. Some states may require pharmacy technicians to register with the State Board of Pharmacy.



The PTCE is recognized in all 50 states, but it is always important to check with your state-specific requirements for working as a pharmacy technician.



Learn more with Peterson's Master the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Test Prep at [Petersons.com](http://Petersons.com)