

# Step Up to the Future as a

# Psychiatric Technician

## Psychiatric Technician Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Cuesta College  
Cypress College  
Mission College  
Mt. San Antonio College  
Napa Valley College  
Porterville College  
San Bernardino Valley College  
San Joaquin Delta College  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
West Hills College  
Yuba College

## Sources for Further Information About Psychiatric Technicians:

California Community  
Colleges' Health Program  
Directory (RHORCs)  
<http://www.healthoccupations.org/ccchealth/>

California Association of  
Psychiatric Technicians  
<http://www.psych-health.com>

Health Care Careers  
[http://www.calmis.ca.gov/  
file/occmisc/HealthCare  
Careers.pdf](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occmisc/HealthCareCareers.pdf)

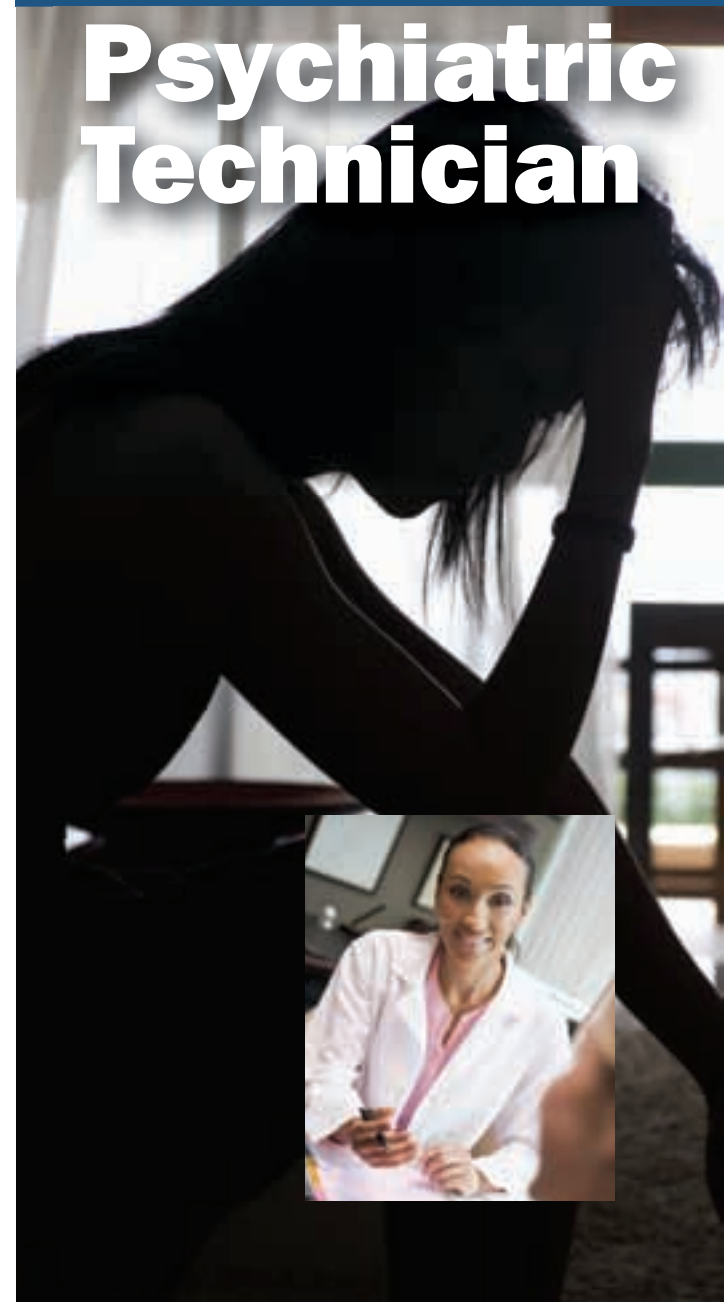
## Psychiatric Technician Certifying Agency:

Department of Consumer  
Affairs California Board of  
Vocational Nursing and  
Psychiatric Technicians  
<http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov>

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9049.



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# Psychiatric Technician



## Step Up to the Future!

### Facts about Psychiatric Technicians & Job Opportunities

According to the Employment Development Department of CA, the need for Psychiatric Technicians in the health care industry is expected to increase by 15.1% from 2006-2016 with 480 average annual job openings in California.

To qualify for a Psychiatric Technician position, an individual must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. Completion of a training program offered by a community

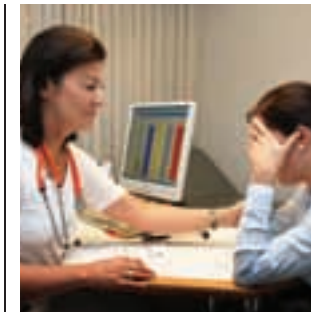
college or other accredited school is also required. Equivalent college coursework combined with work experience may be substituted. Following training, Psychiatric Technicians must pass a written examination and be licensed by the State of California.



### What Does a Psychiatric Technician Do?

Psychiatric Technicians work with people who have emotional or mental illness or developmental disabilities. They care for and interact with patients under the supervision of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric registered nurses and therapists. Psychiatric Technicians help patients dress, bathe, groom and eat. In addition, they socialize with patients and lead them in their daily recreation, work and treatment activities. This may include playing games, doing crafts and assisting in therapy programs. They also perform simple nursing tasks, such as taking temperatures, giving medications and accompanying patients to and from patient care units for examination and treatment. Psychiatric Technicians act as companions and helpers to patients who are isolated from the outside world. They observe patients and report any physical or behavioral changes to the professional staff.

Most Psychiatric Technicians work for state hospitals. Some work in psychiatric units in general hospitals, private psychiatric hospitals or community mental health centers.



### Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

- Friendly, patient and observant with good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to follow physician instructions and hospital procedures.
- Good communication & listening skills (Bilingual skills highly desirable).
- Ability to work independently as well as with a team.
- In hospital settings, Psychiatric Technicians may be required to work nights, weekends and holidays.
- In good physical health.
- Ability to restrain violent or potentially violent patients by verbal or physical means as required.
- Assertiveness to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task.

### How Much Can I Earn?

The earnings of Psychiatric Technicians vary according to their education, skill level, years of experience and geographic location.

Salaries vary widely throughout California. In 2009, according to the Employment Development Department Labor Market Information Division, the median (mid point) annual salary in California was \$49,269 with a median hourly wage of \$23.69 an hour. In San Benito and Santa Clara Counties the median annual salary was \$59,123 with a median salary of \$61,412 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Further inland, Fresno County reported a median annual salary of \$46,728. In Southern California, LA County has a median annual salary of \$48,151 while San Diego County has a median salary of \$49,787. Salaries are notably lower in other states in the U.S.

For more information on salaries go to: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>