

Mt. San Antonio College Health Careers Resource Center

1100 North Grand Avenue • Building 67B, Room 250 • Walnut, California 91789
Office: 909-274-4788 • Fax: 909-274-2076 • Email: TechAndHealth@mtsac.edu

Psychiatric Technician Program

This program will enable the student to gain the knowledge of basic nursing skills, mental health principles and psychodynamics that contribute to the student's comprehension and understanding of the mentally disordered and/or developmentally disabled client. It includes almost all fields in the area of work with clients having a wide variety of disabilities. This program will prepare students to take the California State Licensure Examination for Psychiatric Technicians at the successful completion of the required courses.



ACCREDITATION

Mt. San Antonio College is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the State Department of Education. The Psychiatric Technician Program is accredited by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The employment opportunities for Psychiatric Technicians are excellent. There are not now, and probably will not be in the near future, a sufficient number of qualified Psychiatric Technicians to perform the required work. Anyone selecting this area as a health career will be assured of a rewarding future.



COST/EXPENSES

There is an enrollment fee of forty-six dollars (\$46) per unit* plus material fees, health service fees, college service fees and parking fees each semester. Non-resident students are required to pay tuition fees (please consult the college catalog for further information). The expense of enrollment, annual physical examinations, parking, uniforms, textbooks and related accessories, i.e. transportation to school and to and from the clinical facilities are to be arranged by the student. Refer to page 4 for other fees. Scholarships or loan funds are available; please contact Financial Aid for further information.

**All fees are subject to change.*

V ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting Mt. San Antonio College’s academic standards for admission, applicants must be in good standing and satisfy the following requirements:

1. Applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must be a high school graduate or have equivalent (GED) upon entrance into the program. Any foreign transcript must be evaluated with a statement that *foreign education is equivalent to a United States High School Diploma*. For information on earning a GED at Mt SAC, call 909-274-4845.
2. Applicant must submit an application for the Psychiatric Technician Program to the **HEALTH CAREERS RESOURCE CENTER** office, Bldg. 67B Rm. 250. All applications are dated upon their receipt. **You must provide proof of high school graduation or GED with the application.**
3. File a college application (online at: www.mtsac.edu or in the Admissions Office – Bldg. 9B) and are accepted at Mt. San Antonio College.
4. In order to be invited to our mandatory orientation, you must first submit proof of high school completion and set up an appointment for assessment testing (see #5). When all of the requirements are submitted, you will be invited to a **mandatory orientation**. The orientation will be held in *November for the winter (January) program and in *May for the summer (June) program. *subject to change
5. All students must take the **Assessment Writing Examination (AWE)** at Mt SAC’s assessment center. Eligibility for English 1A is required to register for PSYC 1A (Introduction to Psychology). We also *recommend* that you complete assessment testing for **Math**.
 - You may set up an appointment with the Assessment Center at (909) 274-4265 to take the exam. Should you score for any level less than eligibility for English 68, you should take remedial coursework to meet eligibility.
6. For courses taken at other colleges, please forward two (2) official college transcripts to the following addresses:

MAIL TO: Mt. San Antonio College Health Careers Resource Center Psychiatric Technician Program 1100 North Grand Avenue Walnut, CA 91789	and	Mt. San Antonio College Admissions Office 1100 North Grand Avenue Walnut, CA 91789
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7. A physical examination, certain immunizations and a current CPR (Health Care Provider) card are required of all candidates upon acceptance. These requirements are due before classes begin. Forms and information will be provided prior to the mandatory orientation.
8. All students will be required to complete a background check prior to entering the clinical education phase.
9. If you are interested in exploring career options or advancement opportunities you may make an appointment with a counselor at (909) 274-4380.

V SELECTION PROCEDURE

In determining eligibility of an applicant, consideration will be given to students who have submitted proof of high school completion. The Technology and Health Division will make every effort to notify the applicant of acceptance by mail one month prior to the mandatory orientation. All students **must** attend the mandatory Psychiatric Technician orientation upon acceptance.

V **CURRICULUM**-To remain in the program, students must maintain a “C” or better in all courses. Please note that clinical assignments may require students to drive long distances.

First Intersession (Winter or Summer)		Approximate Cost \$470
MENT 70	Mental Health	1.5
MENT 70L	Clinical Experience	<u>2</u>
		TOTAL 3.5 units
First Semester (Spring or Fall)		Approximate Cost \$630
MENT 56	Medical-Surgical Nursing for Psychiatric Technicians	9
MENT 56L	Clinical Experience	<u>4</u>
		TOTAL 13 units
Second Intersession (Summer or Winter)		Approximate Cost \$435
MENT 58D	Adv. Medical-Surgical Nursing and Pharmacology for Psychiatric Technicians	4
MENT 58L	Clinical Experience	<u>1.5</u>
		TOTAL 5.5 units
Second Semester (Fall or Spring)		Approximate Cost \$640
MENT 72	Mental Health Technology	7
MENT 72L	Clinical Experience	5.5
MENT 40*	Introduction to Interviewing and Counseling, or equivalent	<u>3</u>
		TOTAL 15.5 units
Third Intersession (Winter or Summer)		Approximate Cost \$170
PSYC 1A*	Introduction to Psychology, or equivalent	<u>3</u>
		TOTAL 3 units
Third Semester (Fall or Spring)		Approximate Cost \$620
MENT 73T	Psychiatric Nursing for Psychiatric Technicians	6
MENT 73L	Clinical Experience	<u>5.5</u>
		TOTAL 11.5 units

*May be taken prior to entrance in the program

..... Total Units: 52.00

Upon completion of the above required courses, a *Psychiatric Technician Certificate of Completion* will be awarded. In addition, it qualifies the student to take the California State Board Examination. Upon passing the exam, a license to practice as a Psychiatric Technician may be granted by the state. **Note: Certain criminal convictions may prevent a student from being licensed.**

V **A.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (OPTIONAL)**

Fourth Semester (offered in spring and fall)		
MENT 82	Work Experience	2 units

If you are seeking to complete the A.S. Degree in Mental Health you must complete the above courses as well as the general education courses needed for completion of the Associate in Science Degree. Requirements are listed in the Mt. San Antonio College catalog. You may meet with an Advisor in the Student Services Center for a list of general education requirements. These requirements can generally be completed in two (2) semesters. **Please Note: an A.S. Degree is not required to qualify the student for the California State Board Examination.**

V ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DRESS CODE - Students are required to adhere to program and clinical facility dress code policies.

- Full Uniform*** Professional tunic with short sleeves and pockets.
Straight leg, washable trousers.
All white leather shoes, enclosed toe and heel (no canvas shoes).
Name tag.
School insignia, left shoulder.
- Hair** Must be worn off the uniform collar and away from the face.
- Beard (Men)** Short, neat, and well trimmed (if the assigned hospital does not permit beards, it must be removed).
- Tatoos/Piercings** May need to be covered or removed according to clinical facility policies.

*NOTES: Uniforms (top and pants) may be purchased during the orientation meeting. Students will be notified of amount to bring (cash or money order only). The full uniform includes a pen and watch with a second hand. The full uniform is to be worn at the clinical facilities at all times, unless directed otherwise by your clinical instructor.

Any deviation from the above policy will necessitate dismissal from the clinical area, and may result in failure of clinical competencies.

GROOMING

- Grooming for both male and female students would include clean, neat clothing; careful attention to skin and nails; avoidance of scented cologne or other grooming aids.
- Jewelry should be limited to wedding and/or engagement rings and a wristwatch. Students may wear one stud earring in each ear.
- It is mandatory that hair be worn off the uniform collar and away from the face for personal hygiene and safety.
- Heavy make-up and extremes in dress style must be avoided in the clinical area.
- Shirts or clothing with writing or insignias may be prohibited in some clinical sites.

Remember, the uniform was originally developed for purposes of cleanliness, economy, and ease of care. In uniform, or not, your personal appearance should reflect dignity, physical and emotional health, and pride as a member of the Mental Health Team.

COSTS TO BE INCURRED BY THE STUDENT (subject to change)

Books:	Approximately \$150 to \$250 per semester
Physical Exam:	Approximately \$150 per year
Livescan Fee:	Approximately \$66 per scan
CPR (Health Care Provider):	Approximately \$25 - \$30
Background Check	Approximately \$46
Uniforms:	Approximately \$50 to \$75 each
Patch:	Approximately \$5 each
Health Careers Resource Center:	\$8 per semester – for practice tests
Psych Tech Club:	\$2.50 per semester (optional)

V ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CONT'D)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

A physical examination must be on file in the Technology and Health Division office prior to the beginning of the first semester and yearly thereafter. Physical examination forms are provided upon acceptance and are also available in the Health Careers Resource Center in Bldg. 67B, Room 250. It is the student's responsibility to maintain currency. If physical exam lapses, then the student will not be allowed in clinical.

CPR - HEALTH CARE PROVIDER or PROFESSIONAL RESCUER CARD

Students must have a current American Heart Association, Health Care Provider card or American Red Cross, Professional Rescuer card. Levels of CPR cards required for the program are as follows:

American Heart Association: **Acceptable** is Healthcare Provider. **Not acceptable** is Heart Saver.

American Red Cross: **Acceptable** is Professional Rescuer. **Not acceptable** are Community CPR, Adult CPR or First Aid cards.

There will be an opportunity for students to register for the CPR-Health Care Provider class at the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to maintain currency. If CPR lapses then the student will not be allowed in clinical.

UNIFORM PATCH

Students will need to arrange to pick up and purchase the patch. The patch is worn on the uniform's left arm. The school insignia must be obtained at the following address:

B & J Letter Service, 715 North Miller, Azusa, CA 91702, (626) 334-3117

NAME TAG

Once you are enrolled in the program, you will obtain a Psychiatric Technician Student photo ID/name tag. You will obtain this at the Bursar's Office. Name tags are to be worn when in the clinical site as part of the uniform. Students will be sent home if name tag is not worn.

GRADES

Students enrolled in the Psychiatric Technician Program must receive a "C" or better in all subjects in the major as well as related classes. Students receiving less than a "C" must repeat the class in order to successfully complete the program. **You will only be allowed to repeat a course once.** Students withdrawing or failing a course must complete a Readmission Application and may need to complete a remediation program before re-entering. Depending on enrollment, you may be placed on a waiting list for re-entry. Students may be blocked from registering if there have been excessive failures or frequent withdrawals.

TRANSPORTATION

Each student is responsible for providing his/her own transportation to school and to and from all clinical facilities. Students may need to drive long distances for clinical rotations. Clinical site choice is at the discretion of the instructor.

FINGERPRINTING

Selected clinical facilities may require fingerprint clearance prior to entering clinical. You will also get fingerprinted prior to being licensed as a Psychiatric Technician. Students who do not clear fingerprinting may be unable to complete clinical objectives.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Facilities may require students to fill out forms declaring prior arrests or convictions. If the facility disallows a student from the site, the student may not be able to complete clinical training and would fail the clinical class. Certain criminal convictions may prevent a student from being licensed. This information is available at www.bvnpt.ca.gov. The Board makes the decision after the student takes the state board examination and the decision is between the Board and the student.

CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT

Upon successful completion of first semester, all students will be eligible to apply for certification as a CNA. Should you choose to test for Certified Nurse Assistant certification, fingerprinting will be required.

V OCCUPATIONAL GUIDE

THE JOB: A *Licensed Psychiatric Technician* works to help people who are emotionally disturbed, mentally disordered, or developmentally disabled. The Psychiatric Technician's purpose is the same as other members of the mental health team--to rehabilitate the clients so that they can return to the community and live a more complete and satisfying life. The Psychiatric Technician is usually in closer contact and spends more time with the clients than any other mental health professional.

JOB DUTIES: The Psychiatric Technician is concerned with every detail of the client's daily life and effects on their physical, mental, and emotional well being; these include eating, sleeping, recreation, developing work skills and adjustments, individual and group relation. The Technician is specially qualified by knowledge of social interactions to help the client at home with the family, in the community, or work surroundings. Here the Technician is primarily concerned with social relationships and must be able to give routine or emergency nursing care to the clients for whom he/she is responsible. This includes taking and recording temperature, pulse and respiration counts, measuring blood pressures, and giving medications and other physical treatments. One must be an accurate observer and counseling and training the client for daily living inside and outside of the hospital which is close to the field of psychiatric social work, vocational rehabilitation and re-education. The Technician usually works under the direction of one of the mental health specialists, but is qualified to work independently, exercising judgment, and seeking specialized technician and professional assistance when necessary. Competency is recognized by licensure of the Psychiatric Technician.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK: Areas where Psychiatric Technicians can most effectively be employed include behavior therapy, re-motivation, forensics, out-patient, re-socialization, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, sensory and perceptual development, variety of institutional and community settings such as Day Care, Alcoholism, and Drug Program. The aim of all these programs is to help the individual live a full and satisfying life in the community.

The salary ranges for the Psychiatric Technician vary according to the type of facility. Private industry pays approximately \$3,000 a month. Positions available in the state hospital system and Developmental Centers pay approximately \$57,000 a year plus benefits. There are more opportunities for promotion to supervisory and administrative positions in state service that pay up to and above \$5,000 per month.