

Virginia Board of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Interns as Pharmacy Technicians Pharmacy Technician Ratio

For the purpose of gaining practical experience to meet requirements for becoming a pharmacist, a registered pharmacy intern is by law allowed to perform tasks restricted to pharmacists provided they are directly monitored by a pharmacist. When a pharmacy intern is engaged in obtaining required practical experience hours, to be used either by the college of pharmacy or submitted to the Board on an affidavit, the pharmacy intern is not counted in the pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio. For example, one pharmacist could be supervising a pharmacy intern for experience and up to four pharmacy technicians at the same time.

The Board has determined that properly registered pharmacy interns may also act as pharmacy technicians without being registered as such during times when they are not gaining practical experience. Pharmacy interns when acting as pharmacy technicians, shall be considered part of the 1:4 pharmacist to technician ratio.

Pharmacy technician trainees who are not yet registered but performing technician tasks in a pharmacy within the allotted nine months time in an approved training program, are considered to be acting as pharmacy technicians and as such, are included in the 1:4 pharmacist to technician ratio.