MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN, OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE

Program Information
Are you a caring person, a good listener, and compassionate to others’ needs? Psychiatric aides and technicians observe and record patient behavior and present their findings to counselors, nurses and other professional staff. They intervene in crisis situations, actively moderate client behavior and assist with feeding, moving, dressing patients, personal hygiene and activities of daily living. If this sounds like you, San Jacinto College’s mental health counseling career path is for you.

The San Jacinto College mental health services program:
• Is specifically designed to train mental health technicians, both psychiatric aides and technicians.
• Prepares students to care for mentally impaired or emotionally disturbed individuals following physician instructions and hospital procedures.
• Provides psychiatric aides and technicians with the skills to observe and record patient behavior and present their findings to counselors, nurses and other professional staff.
• Offers training to intervene in crisis situations, actively moderate client behavior and assist with feeding, moving, dressing patients, personal hygiene and activities of daily living.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of our program will be able to work in substance abuse and mental health facilities in both private and nonprofit organizations and find opportunities in:
• Hospitals
• In-patient psychiatric hospitals
• Out-patient hospitals
• Veteran affairs clinics
• Nursing homes
• Research facilities
• Pain management clinics
• Drug rehabilitation centers
• Counseling centers

Earning Potential
Psychiatric Technician median salary: $33,232 per year

Source: texaswages.com (http://texaswages.com), Gulf Coast region, 2017

For more information contact 281-998-6150 ext. 7146 or mentalhealthservices@sjcd.edu

Information
The Mental Health Services program is designed to train mental health technicians, and prevention specialists in preparation to meet the requirements for testing as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC). Each program offers a practicum class that allows students to apply classroom skills in a treatment setting.

Prevention Specialist
We are now offering a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Occupational Certificate. This 20-hour certificate prepares students to apply to be a Texas Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS). The curriculum is approved by the Texas Department of Health Services.

The coursework, combined with the capstone experience at a prevention approved training center enables students to work in the area of drug prevention in a variety of settings that include:
• K-12 schools,
• Juvenile justice settings (alternative schools or youth offender programs),
• Local community coalitions, and
• At-risk programs.

Once coursework is completed, students will need 2,000 hours (1 year) of prevention work experience and pass a state exam to obtain their license as a Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS).

Mental Health Technician
The Mental Health Technician (Psychiatric Aide/Technician) Occupational Certificate prepares students to work with individuals with psychiatric or substance use disorders following physician instructions and hospital procedures. Psychiatric aides and technicians observe and record patient behavior and present findings to counselors, nurses, and other professional staff. They intervene in crisis situations, actively moderate client behavior, and assist with feeding, moving, dressing patients, personal hygiene, and activities of daily living.

Potential work opportunities include:
• Aides within inpatient/outpatient psychiatric facilities,
• Day treatment centers,
• Counseling centers, and
• Rehabilitation facilities.

Substance Abuse Counseling
The Substance Abuse Counseling Occupational Certificate and Certificate of Technology prepare individuals to enter the field of human services and provide specialized services to individuals and their families experiencing the effects of substance abuse. Graduates will be able to identify appropriate assessments, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals who are, or have been, engaged in substance abuse. The program, plus 4,000 hours of paid work experience, provides individuals with the necessary educational and employment requirements to become eligible for testing as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC).
Potential Work opportunities include:

- Hospitals,
- Rehabilitation centers,
- Outpatient clinics,
- Veteran’s affairs clinics,
- Alternative schools,
- Research facilities, and
- Pain management clinics and counseling centers.

**Associate of Applied Science (AAS)**

The combination of the certificates and general education leads to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Mental Health Clinical and Counseling psychology. Students who do not have an associate degree (or higher) in a behaviorally related field will not be eligible for full licensure in the state of Texas. A student can complete the certificate of technology course work, enter the workforce as a counseling intern, and continue course work towards an associate degree before receiving his or her LCDC.

View application and information packet here: https://www.sanjac.edu/career/mental-health-services

**Plan of Study**

**North Campus**

6MH-TECH

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Term</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SCWK 1313</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Work</td>
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<td>PSYT 1371</td>
<td>Mental Health Legal and Ethical Issues</td>
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<td>CMSW 1341</td>
<td>Behavior Modification with Cognitive Disorder</td>
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<td>PSYT 2331</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYT 1372</td>
<td>Basic Nursing Skills for Psychiatric Technicians</td>
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<td><strong>Third Term</strong></td>
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<td>PMHS 2366</td>
<td>Practicum-Mental Health Services Technician</td>
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**Capstone Experience:** PMHS 2366 Practicum-Mental Health Services Technician

**Note:** Students must pass each course listed in the degree or certificate for Mental Health Services with a grade of C or higher to be eligible to receive a degree or certificate.