

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

CLASS OF 2028

Psychiatric Technician Apprenticeship Program

The Department of State Hospitals-Napa, Napa Valley College, and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) have partnered to offer a unique apprenticeship program.

Program Structure:

1. Course preparation for PT Fast Track Program: C.N.A. Skills Validation/Medical Terminology/Basic Math/Body Systems Review/Nutrition
2. 12-month Psychiatric Technician (PT) Program (NVC Fast Track PT Program)
3. On-the-Job Training (OJT) at DSH-Napa

Program Highlights:

- Fast-paced program mentoring future mental health leaders
- 95% pass rate for the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) Board Exam
- Limited-term, full-time state employment with benefits, including:
 - Full-time salary
 - Healthcare
 - Other state employee benefits
 - Part-time work while attending school full-time

This program provides a comprehensive pathway to becoming a Psychiatric Technician, combining education, training, and hands-on experience.

Admission Requirements:

- Valid California Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) certificate (new!)
- No college prerequisites required
- Computer skills necessary for success

Corequisite Classes (taken concurrently with PT Apprenticeship Program):

- Pharmacology
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Health and Nutrition
- Human Growth and Development
- Classes may combine in-person and distance learning

Program Requirements and Expectations:

- Possess and maintain a current California C.N.A. certificate
- Maintain passing grades in NVC Fast Track PT Program
- Meet On-the-Job Training (OJT) expectations
- Current immunizations and vaccinations
- Failure to meet requirements may result in dismissal from the program and employment at DSH-Napa

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Health and Immunization Requirements:

- Current immunizations required before and during the program
- COVID-19 vaccination and annual influenza vaccination required
- Additional vaccinations may be required by DSH-Napa, clinical sites, and NVC

Expenses

- Tuition and fees covered by JAC
- Reimbursements for C.N.A. Board Exam and Live Scan fees
- Out-of-pocket expenses (estimated \$2,000 to include books, uniforms, supplies)

Background Check Requirements

- Stringent DOJ and FBI background checks multiple times during the program
- Felony convictions may deny certification/licensure

Eligibility

- High school diploma or equivalent (GED)
 - Meet Napa Valley College's Psychiatric Technician Program math and English requirements (verification letter) See NVC website: Psychiatric Technician Apprenticeship Program (Fast Track) page for details
 - math and English requirements (verification letter)
 - current C.N.A. certificate

Salary and Key Dates

- Monthly Salary: \$2,745 - \$3,650
- Accepting Applications: January 2026 (through calcareers.ca.gov)
- Final Filing Date: July 31, 2026
- Qualifying Examination Date: September 2026 (by appointment only)
- Application for PT Apprentice: September/October 2026 (if passed qualification exam)

Application Process

- 1. Qualification Exam**
 - Create CalCareers account
 - Fill out STD678 and request notification
 - Submit application packet (STD678 and verification letter) to PsychTechApprentice-FastTrack@dsh.ca.gov
- 2. Obtain Verification Letter**
 - Request official high school transcript
 - Send transcript to Napa Valley College (ATTN: Transcript Review for PT Fast Track Program)
 - Follow NVC's verification letter process
- 3. Apply for PT Apprentice Position**
 - Pass Qualification Exam
 - Fill out STD678 and send to DSH-Napa, Hiring and Exams Unit

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Key Contacts

- Qualification Exam: DSH-Sacramento PsychTechApprentice-FastTrack@dsh.ca.gov
- PT Apprentice Position: DSH-Napa HR, EHU Teresita.Oracion@dsh.ca.gov
- Verification Letters: Napa Valley College MEstrada@napavalley.edu
- Program Information: DSHNSHFastTrack@dsh.ca.gov

Summary of Requirements

Gather:

1. CalCareers account and STD678
2. Education documents (3 copies)
 - High school diploma/transcript or GED certificate
3. Identification
 - Current Driver's License
 - Original Social Security Card (unlaminated)
4. Professional References
 - 2 letters or contact information for 2 references
5. Health Requirements
 - Immunization records and titers (see NVC Health Occupations Program requirements)

Submission Timeline

- Hiring Interview (early December 2026): Submit documents 2-4
- Contingent Job Offer (January-February 2027): Submit health requirements

Schedule of the PT Apprenticeship Program:

July 31, 2026	PT Apprenticeship Application Deadline for Class of 2028
September 2026	Qualification (Written) Examination
December 2026	Hiring Interviews
March 2027	Start at DSH-Napa, New Employee Orientation
March – July 2027	C.N.A. Skills Validation/Medical Terminology/Basic Math/Body Systems Review/Nutrition
Mar 2027 – Oct 2028	On the Job Training (OJT) Hours vary depending on when school is in session.
July 2027 – Sept 2028	Fast Track PT Program (accredited through NVC) July – Nov 2027 PTEC97 Nursing Science Jan – May 2028 PTEC98 Developmental Disabilities Jun – Sept 2028 PTEC99 Mental Disabilities
October 2028	Pinning Ceremony