

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN



ASSOCIATE DEGREE & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

2023-2024 CATALOG

DESCRIPTION

The Psychiatric Technician Program (PSYT) prepares students to utilize the nursing process in the provision of care and treatment to individuals with mental and/or intellectual impairment under the supervision of a physician, psychologist and/or registered nurse. Psychiatric Technicians participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, assist patients with activities of daily living, and administer medications and treatments. Upon completion of the program students are eligible to take the Psychiatric Technician state licensure exam leading to licensure as a California Psychiatric Technician. The Cuesta Psychiatric Technician courses are taught at the training facilities of the Department of State Hospitals - Atascadero (DSH-A) in Atascadero, CA, located half way between Cuesta's San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles campuses. Hands-on internship experience is part of the training.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

An Associate Degree, depending on the focus of study, is designed to prepare students for transfer into upper division course work in a bachelor's degree program, or, to prepare students to enter the workforce in a particular vocational field. To qualify for an Associate's Degree, a student must: (1) complete each intraspecific course required for the degree with at least a "C" grade or better, (2) complete all Cuesta College general education, graduation and residency requirements, and (3) achieve an overall grade point average of 2.0 for all courses attempted (major, general education, elective).

A Certificate Program is designed for students who desire specific training to meet an immediate occupational or personal goal, or for promotion or lateral transfer within their existing field of employment. To qualify for a Certificate of Achievement or a Certificate of Specialization, a student must 1) complete all courses required for the Certificate with an overall grade point average of 2.0.

DEGREES, CERTIFICATES & AWARDS

- Associate in Science (A.S.)
- Certificate of Achievement (C.A.)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- State Hospital
- Day Treatment Centers
- Developmental Centers
- Correctional Facilities
- Psychiatric Hospitals & Clinics
- Psychiatric Technician Programs
- Geropsychiatric Centers
- Residential Care Facilities
- Vocational Training Centers
- Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

CONTACT

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The Psychiatric Technician Program prepares graduates to take the Psychiatric Technician state licensure exam leading to licensure as a California Psychiatric Technician.

Students interested in applying to the Psychiatric Technician Program are strongly urged to attend a program information meeting at the Department of State Hospitals - Atascadero. Additional information is available: contact the Psychiatric Technician Program Office at the Department of State Hospitals - Atascadero at (805) 468-3175, email ashptprogram@ash.dsh.ca.gov, or refer to the Nursing and Allied Health Division <https://www.cuesta.edu/academics/scimath/nah/index.html> webpage.

All persons who meet Cuesta College's admission requirements, additional Psychiatric Technician Program admission criteria, and submit a Psychiatric Technician Program application are eligible for admission into the program.

Eligible applicants are admitted into the Psychiatric Technician Program by random selection from a pool of qualified applicants. The year-long program starts three times a year.

Entrance requirements and deadlines are subject to change.

The following are current requirements for consideration for admission to the Psychiatric Technician Program.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. 18 years of age with a valid government-issued Driver's License and Social Security card.
2. Satisfy **one** of the following:
 - High school graduate.
 - Completion of Equivalency Examination or G.E.D.
3. Completion of **one** the following:
 - Two or four-year college degree of AA or higher from an accredited academic institution.

OR

- MATH – College Mathematics for Technical Fields or course equivalent with a "C" or better

AND

- ENGL – English Composition or course equivalent with a "C" or better

OR

CSS – College Success Studies Integrated Reading and Writing or course equivalent with a "C" or better.

OR

ESL – English as a Second Language - Advanced Integrated Skills or course equivalent with a "C" or better.

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TRANSFER PREPARATION

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree may differ from those needed to prepare to transfer. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should schedule an appointment with a Cuesta College counselor to develop a student education plan (SEP) before beginning their program.

TRANSFER RESOURCES:

CSU and UC Articulation Agreements and Majors Search Engine:

www.ASSIST.org

CSU System Information:

www2.calstate.edu

FINANCIAL AID

Paying for the cost of a college education requires a partnership among parents, students and the college. As the cost of higher education continues to rise we want you to know that Cuesta College offers a full array of financial aid programs—grants, work study, scholarships, federal loan programs, and fee waivers. These programs are available to both full-and part-time students who are seeking a degree or certificate. For those who qualify, financial aid is available to help with tuition, fees, books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and childcare. Please log onto our website for additional information:

www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid

4. Once an applicant has been notified that they are being processed for a class, candidate must obtain a Cuesta College Student ID#, clear a health screen/physical, a drug screen and two sets of fingerprints.
5. Enrolled students must successfully complete PSYT 110, a three-week New Employee Orientation at the Department of State Hospitals-Atascadero.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Psychiatric Technician — Associate in Science

Required Courses (70.5 credits)

BIO 212	Human Biology	3
ASHS 212	Human Development: Life Span	3
PSYC 201	Introductory Psychology	3
PSYT 207	Nursing Science	19
PSYT 208	Care Of The Developmentally Disabled	17.5
PSYT 209	Psychiatric Nursing	18.5
PSYT 110	Introduction To Psychiatric Technician	6.5
Total Credits:		70.5

[Click Here For Program Student Learning Outcomes](#)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Psychiatric Technician — Certificate of Achievement

Required Courses (61.5 credits)

PSYT 110	Introduction To Psychiatric Technician	6.5
PSYT 207	Nursing Science	19
PSYT 208	Care Of The Developmentally Disabled	17.5
PSYT 209	Psychiatric Nursing	18.5
Total Credits:		61.5

[Click Here For Program Student Learning Outcomes](#)



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