

Anatomy of a setup

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Psychiatric Technicians West Hills College Coalinga Psychiatric Technicians are mental health professionals that generally work under the direction of psychiatrists and registered nurses in state hospitals, correctional facilities, and developmental centers. They are trained in general/abnormal psychology and in pharmacology. They assist in the implementation of various options, including psychoanalytic, somatic, behavioral, humanistic and psychopharmaceutical treatments of mental illness.

Psychiatric technicians are the front line in mental health care, implementing the treatment plans developed by psychiatrists or other mental health professionals. (Labor Market Info, Psychiatric Technicians In California, 2010) Psychiatric Technicians have many responsibilities, duties, and skills they obtain while on the job. They provide hands on direct care to developmentally or emotionally disabled people, as well as suffering from psychosis and dementia.

They are relied upon to report changes in patient mental or physical health, as well as problems, issues, or concerns with patient reactions to medications being used. They also consult with and counsel clients regarding the therapies and treatment options. Their job often includes recordkeeping and monitoring of patients receiving medication, and they may be expected to keep up-to-date on safety issues with the medications used, changing practices regarding dosage requirements, and new medications being used in their field.

Aside from the responsibilities that Psych Techs take on daily, they also possess many skills that are crucial to the job. Some of which include basic nursing medication administration, documentation, and patient assessment. (Wikipedia, Psychiatric Technicians, 2013) Being able to handle tough situations, multitask efficiently and effectively with none to minimal mistakes. Also respond and quickly think of the right calls and judgments, is what separates average psych techs from the great ones.

It's those that go above and beyond striving for more than the bare minimum that truly are the strong ones. People who see being a Psych Tech more than just a paycheck and a job, but as a lifelong career. Psychiatric Technicians salaries vary depending on many factors. Work location and experience can have an increase in salary, though the median wage in 2013 for Psych Techs in California is 53,338 annually, or \$25.65 hourly.

Along with the annual salary they also receive benefit packages which include medical, dental, and vision insurance as well as retirement plans, vacation, holidays, and sick leave. Some employers may offer tuition reimbursement for education. (Labor Market Info, Psychiatric Technicians in California, 2010) Even though I consider myself to be a confident person, I also feel I have certain flaws that can be a weakness in this career path I have chosen. I tend to put myself down and underestimate myself, but that can easily be fixed by surrounding myself with positive people that help motivate me.

My kindness and thoughtfulness can sometimes be taken advantage of, but I feel I can filter out those who may take my actions for granted. Becoming a

Psychiatric Technician has been my goal and dream. Getting accepted and being able to have a seat in the class is a complete honor to me. What most intrigues me about this career is the behavioral studies of the human mind and the emotionally/mentally disabled. I would love to be a psych tech the most because of the working environment they are put under. Also it is something new everyday.