

# PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN



ASSOCIATE DEGREE &amp; CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

2021-2022 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.

## WHERE ARE THEY EMPLOYED

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

## 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).

## DEGREES, CERTIFICATES & AWARDS

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

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Community Mental Health Centers
- Psychiatric Hospital Setting
- Residential Mental Health Facilities
- State Correctional Facilities
- State Hospital Setting

## CONTACT

Psychiatric Technician Program  
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Psychiatric Technician Program  
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**MSN, RN**  
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**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.

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](mailto: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.

Must be 18 years of age.

Satisfy ONE of the following:

- Be a high school graduate
- Completion of Equivalency Examination or G.E.D.
- College degree of AA or higher

### 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](http://www.ASSIST.org)

CSU System Information:  
[www2.calstate.edu](http://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](http://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid)

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

**Psychiatric Technician** — Associate in Science

**Required Courses (70.5 credits)**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| BIO 212 . . . . . Human Biology . . . . .                           | 3           |
| HDHS 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         |
| <b>Total Credits:</b> . . . . .                                     | <b>70.5</b> |

[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        |
| <b>Total Credits:</b> . . . . .                                     | <b>61.5</b> |

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



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