

Health Career Observer



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Psychiatric Aide & Technician

Psychiatric technicians and aides care for people who have mental illness and developmental disabilities. Psychiatric technicians and aides work in psychiatric hospitals, residential mental health facilities, and related healthcare settings.

Average Annual Salary Psychiatric Aide: \$31,570

Average Annual Salary Psychiatric Technician: \$35,030

How Do I Become a Psychiatric Aide & Technician?

- **Aide**-Minimum of a high school diploma and on the job training under the supervision of an experienced psychiatric technician or aide.
- **Technician**-A certificate or associate's degree in psychiatric or mental health technology following high school. Sometimes clinical experience like a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or nursing assistant (CNA) is required.

**Projected Job
Market Growth:
11% Increase by 2030**

What Does a Psychiatric Aide & Technician Do?

Psychiatric Technician

- Observe patients' behavior, listen to concerns, and record conditions
- Lead in therapeutic and recreational activities
- Give medications and other treatments, following instructions from doctors and other medical professionals
- Monitor patient vital signs
- Restrain patients who may become physically violent

Psychiatric Aide

- Serve meals
- Help with activities of daily living, including eating and bathing
- Monitor patients' behavior and location in a mental healthcare facility
- Help in group activities
- Help transport patients within the facilities
- Help keep facilities clean by doing tasks such as changing bed linens



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