

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
CLASS OF 2028

Psychiatric Technician (PT) Apprenticeship Program

The Department of State Hospitals-Napa (DSH-Napa), Napa Valley College (NVC), and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee have partnered to offer a unique Psychiatric Technician (PT) Apprenticeship program. The PT Apprenticeship program requires individuals to pass an examination which is offered once every two years (or as needed based on vacancies). Upon successfully passing the exam, individuals will have an opportunity to compete for a seat in the PT Apprentice program where they receive on-the-job training and mentoring for future roles in mental health. The following sections provide additional insight to the PT Apprenticeship program.

This document includes the following sections:

1. Overview (page 2)
2. Relevant Information (page 3)
3. Contact List & FAQs (page 4)
4. Items to Prepare if Selected for Interview (page 5)
5. Schedule & Submission timeline (page 6)
6. Checklist (page 7)

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Overview

Program Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Includes lecture hours/in-person classroom learning✓ Includes On-the-Job Training (OJT) at DSH-Napa
Program Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Full-time salary○ Healthcare○ Other state employee benefits○ Part-time work while attending school full-time <p>**Note: This program provides a comprehensive pathway to becoming a Psychiatric Technician, combining education, training, and hands-on experience.</p>

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CLASS OF 2028

Relevant Information

Requirements/Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possess current CNA Certificate or pass CNA Board Exam• Don't have a CNA Certificate? Click HERE to find approved training programs• Maintain passing grades in NVC Fast Track PT Apprenticeship Program• Meet OJT expectations• Current immunizations and vaccinations• Failure to meet requirements may result in dismissal from the program and employment at DSH-Napa
Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuition and fees covered by Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC)• Reimbursements for CNA Board Exam and Live Scan fees• Out-of-pocket expenses (estimated \$2,000 to include books, uniforms, supplies)
Background Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stringent DOJ and FBI background checks multiple times during the program• Felony convictions may deny certification/licensure
Examination Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or equivalent (GED)• Meet NVC's math and English requirements (verification letter)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ See NVC website: PT Apprenticeship Program (Fast Track) page for details
Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly salary: See Exam Control 4806.

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CLASS OF 2028

Contact List & FAQs

WHAT	WHO	EMAIL
PT Apprenticeship Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is PTA?• Who can Apply?• When is the last day to apply?	DSH - Napa	DSHNSHFastTrack@dsh.ca.gov
Verification Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the verification letter?• When is the last day to request it?	Napa Valley College	MEstrada@napavalley.edu
Vacancy/Position <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do I submit for the application process?• Where do I apply?• When is the final file date?	DSH - Napa	Teresita.Oracion@dsh.ca.gov
Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the exam process?• Where do I submit the application and verification letter for the exam?• When will the exam take place?	Department of State Hospitals - Sacramento	PsychTechApprentice-FastTrack@dsh.ca.gov

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
CLASS OF 2028

Items to Prepare if Selected for Interview:

1. CalCareers account and STD678 (Application) – see [Exam Control 4806](#)
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)

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CLASS OF 2028

Schedule & Submission Timeline:

March 27, 2026 (initial cutoff) & July 31, 2026 (final cutoff)	PT Apprentice application deadline for class of 2028 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Create CalCareers account AND fill out STD 678 (see steps under PTA Program Checklist on page 4).✓ Obtain verification letter from Napa Valley College (see steps under PTA Program Checklist on page 5). <p>***Note: STD 678 may be required for the exam, vacancy and/or interview. Be prepared to submit STD 678 for all phases of the process.</p> <p>***July 31, 2026 extended cutoff is based on qualified candidate pool and department need.</p>
September 2026	Qualification Multiple-Choice Examination
October - November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiring Interviews (submit document requirements 2 - 4)• Contingent Job Offer (submit health requirements)
March 2027	Start at DSH-Napa/New Employee Orientation
July 2027 – September 2028	Fast Track PT Apprenticeship Program (accredited through NVC) July – Nov 2027: PTEC 97 Nursing Science Jan – May 2028: PTEC 98 Developmental Disabilities June – Sept 2028: PTEC 99 Mental Disabilities
March 2027 – October 2028	OJT (hours vary depending on when school is in session)
October 2028	Pinning Ceremony

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Checklist

Helpful Tips:

- ✓ Apply using a desktop computer or laptop.
- ✓ Do not use a cell phone to apply.
- ✓ Stay apprised of important deadlines.
- ✓ Below timeline is to provide guidance on items needed and the submission deadline.

	ITEM	DEADLINE	COMPLETED?
	*Application Process & Qualification Exam		
1.	Apply to Exam Control 4806 .		
2.	Review entire exam bulletin and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply.		
3.	*Obtain Verification Letter from NVC		
4.	Request official high school transcript		
5.	Send transcript to NVC (ATTN: Transcript Review for PTA Fast Track Program)		
6.	Follow NVC's verification letter process		
7.	*Apply to PTA Vacancy/Position		
8.	Pass Qualification Exam		
9.	Fill out STD 678 and send to DSH-Napa, Hiring and Exams Unit		