

## CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN (NCPT)



The Mental Health Technician Program (NCPT – Nationally Certified Psychiatric Technician) is a twenty-four-week program (2 terms) that consists of 380 hours of classroom instruction, skills lab, and clinical experiences in a hospital setting. At the conclusion of the program, graduates will be qualified to sit for national certification examinations in Patient Care Assisting (PCA), Phlebotomy, EKG, and Mental Health Technician. Duties may include providing personal care, participation in clinical and vital sign assessment, leading group activities, and phlebotomy. Mental Health Technicians usually work in behavioral units within hospitals, but can be employed in clinics, physician offices and other health care facilities as well.

*Jeremiah's Hope Academy is an Eligible Training Provider for WIOA, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Veterans GI Bill in the State of Alabama. Check with your County's Career Center for more information.*

*"Training You Can Believe In"*

**\*This program is offered at East Campus ONLY**

**Jeremiah's Hope Academy – East Campus  
46 Medical Park Drive East, Suite 475  
Birmingham, Alabama 35235**

**205-939-7233**

[www.jhacademy.org](http://www.jhacademy.org)

## Application Requirements:

A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, complete a background check, and drug screening. Interviews are required. This process is lengthy and competitive but assures that students will be qualified to work in hospitals and healthcare institutions. Nonrefundable application fees required.

## Training

Training programs provide instruction and supervised clinical experiences related to basic patient care, interpersonal / communication skills, safety measures, infection control, medical terminology, nutrition, basic anatomy, vital signs assessment, CPR certification, mental health information and employability skills. Supervised clinical experiences for Mental Health Technician students occur in the hospital setting as well as Phlebotomy training in a laboratory setting. Successful completion of an approved program in Mental Health Technician prepares the student to take the American Association of Psychiatric Technicians certification examination, along with National Healthcare Association certification examinations in PCA, EKG and Phlebotomy.

- **\$20 Application Fee (Non-refundable) due with completed application**
- **Tuition Cost (includes books, supplies and basic cert. fee): \$3177.00**
- Additional cost for clinical scrubs

**\*Financial aid is available for those who qualify**

## Mental Health Technician FAQs

### **Where do Mental Health Technicians (MHT or NCPTs) work, what are their hours, and what do they do?**

Psychiatric Technicians work in a wide variety of environments, including the following:

Residential treatment programs	Secured geriatric facilities
Psychiatric treatment facilities	Day treatment programs
General hospital acute psych units	Outpatient mental health clinics
Psychiatric emergency teams	Psychiatric assessment centers
Long-term care facilities	Psychiatric crisis units
Substance abuse programs	Child/Youth psychiatric programs
Home health care	Residential care homes
State hospitals	Intermediate care facilities
State prisons	Armed forces psychiatric facilities
Adult residential facilities	

Psychiatric Technicians generally work a 40-hour week. Because patients/clients need care 24 hours a day, scheduled work hours may include nights, weekends and holidays.

The Psychiatric (Mental Health) Technician cares for mentally impaired or emotionally disturbed individuals, following physician instructions and hospital procedures. The MHT monitors patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff. In some states they may participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene and administer oral medications and hypodermic injections.

The NCPT helps patients with their personal hygiene, such as bathing and keeping beds, clothing and living areas clean; takes and records measures of patient's general physical condition, such as pulse, temperature, and respiration, to provide daily information; observes patients to detect behavior patterns and reports observations to medical staff; leads prescribed individual or group therapy sessions as part of specific therapeutic procedures; intervenes to restrain violent or potentially violent or suicidal patients by verbal or physical means as required; contacts patient's relatives by telephone to arrange family conferences; and, completes initial admittance forms for new patients

### **What can the Mental Health Technician expect when providing care to patients and what are the physical demands?**

They spend most of their time on their feet. They are sometimes confronted with violent patients who must be restrained. This may be emotionally draining, but they may also gain satisfaction from assisting those in need. The Mental Health Technician answers a particular vocational call to sacred work by caring for the needs of mentally and emotionally disturbed patients.

### **What will the NCPT training include?**

In addition to the basic training provided in the Patient Care Assistant training program, the MHT program includes special classroom and clinical course work for treating patients with mental and emotional illness.

### **What is the class schedule for NCPT training at Jeremiah's Hope Academy?**

As a student, you are expected to be available for training and education from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Because there are a variety of experiences and certifications involved, it is important to be prompt and available for every possible academy-related opportunity.

### **Can I expect to find employment as a NCPT?**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the demand for NCPT (MHT) positions will increase steadily in the coming years, and is considered a "Bright Outlook" occupation in Alabama.