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April 30-May 1, 2024 in
Bethesda, Maryland



PTAC Biannual Meeting

October 24-25, 2023 Bethesda, Maryland

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The ASHP and ACPE Boards of Directors approved the following survey site visit reports reviewed by the commission for accreditation: 12 new programs and 12 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (5) and special case reports (18) were also reviewed along with 22 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 247 programs are in the accreditation process which includes accredited programs and programs in candidate status.

Congratulations to the following programs that were granted initial accreditation or reaccreditation!



Initial Accreditation

- Western Colorado Community College Grand Junction, Colorado
- University of Iowa Health Care Iowa City, Iowa
- Harris Teeter Matthews, North Carolina
- University Hospitals Cleveland, Ohio
- University of the Incarnate Word, Feik School of Pharmacy San Antonio, Texas
- Chesapeake Career Center Chesapeake, Virginia
- New Horizons Regional Education Centers Newport News, Virginia
- Tidewater Community College Portsmouth, Virginia
- Richmond Technical Center Richmond, Virginia
- Inova Health System Fairfax, Virginia
- Academies of Loudoun Leesburg, Virginia
- Wenatchee Valley College Wenatchee, Washington

Reaccreditation

- Arizona College of Allied Health Glendale, Arizona
- Arizona College Mesa, Arizona
- Cerritos College Norwalk, California
- Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center Sacramento, California
Sacramento City Unified School District
- Cosumnes River College Sacramento, California
- Central Louisiana Technical Community College Ferriday, Louisiana
- Charter Health Care Training Center Flint, Michigan
- Thrifty White Pharmacy Plymouth, Minnesota
- North Dakota State College of Science Wahpeton, North Dakota
- Northwest Career College Las Vegas, Nevada
- Midlands Technical College West Columbia, South Carolina
- Mountainland Applied Technology College Lehi, Utah

Promotion of the Pharmacy Technician Profession to High School Students

The PTAC subcommittee comprised of Matthew Kelm, Matthew Rewald, Nichole Foster, Janet Kozakiewicz, Amisha Arya, Sheri Fulfer, and Lisa Lifshin met to investigate how to promote the pharmacy profession to high school students. Matthew Kelm connected with MAPP (Motivational Appraisal Personal Potential) organization that develops career assessment tests. MAPP offered to include additional “product keys” to enable better customization and information about pharmacy technician roles that may increase identification of pharmacy technician as a career path on test takers’ profiles. Other activities to promote the career path of pharmacy technicians include development of an info-gram by Amisha Arya and Sheri Fulfer that can be shared with high school guidance counselors, state pharmacy affiliates, and other interested

parties to promote the pharmacy technician profession and the benefits of this role as a potential employment and career opportunity.

Review of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) and Non-traditional Pharmacy Education and Training Programs

Matthew Helm provided an update of the pilot for prior learning credit conducted through the Duke University Health System Pharmacy Technology Training Program. Future initiatives for CPL include a pilot at the Mayo Clinics led by Matthew Rewald, investigation of opportunities for a pilot within the grocery store pharmacy environment, a pilot at NYU Langone and a pilot at Yale New Haven.



The determination of the role CPL will play in the upcoming standards revision is to be determined once more data is available.

PTCB Update

Ryan Burke, Director of Professional Affairs at PTCB, provided an update on PTCB's job analysis report for 2024. PTCE pass rates among graduates from ASHP/ACPE-accredited programs, non-accredited programs, and exam takers who listed work experience as their primary source of training. More analysis is needed to determine the impact of COVID and other factors on pass rates.

Annual Survey Update

The Annual Survey was distributed in July 2023 with 91% of programs responding. Key takeaways include:

- The majority of graduates gained employment
- Growth in accredited health-system technician education and training programs doubled between 2022 and 2023 (from 15 to 30)
- 25 of 30 health system programs surveyed indicated they had difficulty recruiting pharmacy technicians prior to implementing a technician and training program at their institution

Primary outcomes for the education and training programs were identified:

- Create a predictable source of well-educated and trained pharmacy technicians
- Workforce development enabling institutions to train current employees for pharmacy technician roles

- Increase safety through sufficient pharmacy technician support of the enterprise

The annual survey also revealed that program director turnover is a continuing issue leading to a less than 100% response rate to the Annual Survey which is a required component of the accreditation process.

Planning for the 2024 Annual Survey is underway with Amy Hyduk-Cardillo, Director of Operations for Accreditation Services at ASHP; Eric Grace, Director, Standards Development & Training for ASHP, Amisha Arya, Director of Pharmacy for Regulatory and Compliance at the NYU Langone Health System, New York City, and Lisa Lifshin. Key changes include removal of COVID-related questions; addition of questions for health system programs to help better understand capacity, workforce shortages, and job retention.

Standard Revision 2024-2025

Tate Trujillo moderated a SWOT analysis to prepare for the upcoming Standards revision. Areas of discussion included simplifying the standard, removing duplicative standards, and assessment of offering entry-level and advanced programs. Anticipated completion of the revised standard is July 2025.

Health System Pharmacy Leaders Toolkit for Advancement of Pharmacy Technicians

The committee formed to develop a toolkit for the advancement of pharmacy technicians is continuing its work in multiple areas. The committee members (Janet Kozakiewicz, Matthew Rewald, Amisha Arya, Melissa Heigham, Tate Trujillo, and Lisa Lifshin) presented some initial components of the toolkit to the PTAC members for review including information that will assist pharmacy administrators in justifying the implementation of an ASHP/ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training program; examples of pharmacy technician career ladders/lattice; compensation structures for pharmacy technicians; and job descriptions for program directors. Work to refine the toolkit is ongoing as PTAC determines the best method for sharing the information with health system pharmacy leaders.



Pharmacy Technician Program Director and Preceptor Education

Members of PTAC discussed the need for educational resources for program directors and preceptors with key areas identified as understanding how to prepare for surveys, understanding and implementing the standards, completing required documents, and other essential areas in maintaining compliance with the accreditation standards. Multiple methods were discussed and planning for development and implementation is ongoing.

The Pharmacy Technician Society (TPTS)

Hannah Vanderpool provided the Commission with an overview of The Pharmacy Technician Society (TPTS) a new national membership organization exclusively dedicated to further elevating pharmacy technician roles in patient care and recognizing their significant contributions to healthcare. TPTS is the collective voice of pharmacy technicians who practice in hospital systems, community pharmacies, clinics, and all other settings. TPTS supports the career advancement and professionalization of the pharmacy technician workforce through education, networking, policy development, and advocacy. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.pharmtechsociety.org/>

Reminder: ASHP/ACPE Online Directory Revisions

Please remember to update your online directory!

It's essential to review your online directory page each time you receive the Tech Tablet! This is the way that we maintain our database. The directory provides a valuable recruitment tool for those looking for those programs that are ASHP/ACPE accredited or in the accreditation process.

Note: All programs currently have the ability to update their own program information in the directory with the exception of the program director and organization names. These items must be reported to asd@ashp.org as soon as possible and office staff will update the information listed as exceptions.

Resources

Resources for Program Development

[Accreditation Standards, Regulations, and Other Tools](#)

[Guidance Document](#)

[Model Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Crosswalk Example](#)

[Applying for Accreditation – Guidelines and Application Form](#)

Informational Videos

[10 Key Steps to ASHP / ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Program Accreditation \(December 2018\)](#)

[2019 ASHP/ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Standards \(video 1 of 2 – December 2018\)](#)

[2019 ASHP/ACPE Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Standards \(video 2 of 2 – December 2018\)](#)

[From Application to Site Survey: Beginning the Accreditation Process for Technician Programs \(2022\)](#)

Governance

[Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission \(PTAC\)](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Certification Board \(PTCB\)](#)

[Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education \(ACPE\) Pharmacy Technician Education Accreditation Collaboration](#)

[American Society of Health-system Pharmacists \(ASHP\)](#)

Education and Workforce Development

[The Pharmacy Technician Society](#)

[Pharmacy Technician Educators Council \(PTEC\)](#)

[Pharmacy Workforce Center \(PWC\)](#)

Other Resources

Pharmacy Technician Development: [ASHP Store](#)
(search for Pharmacy Technicians under the Topics section)

[PTCB's Practice Tools](#)

Products and Services



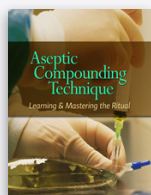
Earn an ASHP Professional Certificate in Sterile Product Preparation Training

This Professional Certificate program develops the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare sterile products safely and effectively. Participants will learn the history and evolution of aseptic processing as it relates to today's practice standards and will be taught the behaviors and skills required of all personnel engaged in compounding sterile products. The program reflects all pending changes associated with USP Chapter <797> and USP Chapter <800> has eight modules, provides 17.25 CE hours for pharmacists and technicians.



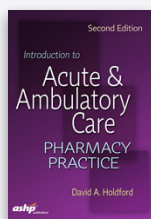
Learning and Mastering Pharmaceutical Calculations by Nicholas Ferencz

A valuable supplement to any pharmacy math course or textbook for students, technicians, or practitioners who look to sharpen their critical calculation skills.



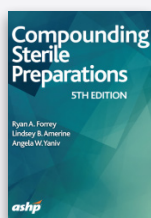
Aseptic Compounding Technique: Learning and Mastering the Ritual by Zachary Thomas Jordan

An in-depth guide to all aspects of aseptic compounding work, including proper hand techniques and maintenance of sterile supplies and equipment.



Introduction to Acute and Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice, Second Edition (used to be called Introduction to Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Practice) by David Holdford

This book was originally intended for schools of pharmacy but drew lots of interest from the technician programs. The second edition was updated to incorporate more information specific to technicians.



Compounding Sterile Preparations, Fifth Edition by E. Clyde Buchanan, Philip Schneider, and Ryan Forrey

New updated edition includes information on Chapter 800 and regulations related to the Drug Quality and Security Act. Seven new chapters and extensive online references.

Comments and suggestions for upcoming Technician TABLET newsletter articles may be sent to asd@ashp.org