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Highlights of ASHP's Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition

ASHP's 2015 Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition in New Orleans featured several events designed specifically for technicians and technician educators, including a networking session for technicians to meet up with colleagues and an interactive session that focused on new and prospective technician training program directors. Members from The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and ASHP led the session. The engaged attendees asked questions about everything from applying for accreditation to the survey process. The "Pharmacy Technician Training: What's New for 2016!" session enabled participants another opportunity to network with their peers and to learn about the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) and its role in the accreditation process.



Congratulations to Newly Accredited ASHP-ACPE Programs!

At its October meeting, the PTAC reviewed and granted accreditation to the following technician training programs:

- Ayers Career College, Shreveport, LA
- Northshore Technical Community College, Bogalusa, LA
- Remington College:
 - Shreveport, LA
 - Lafayette, LA
 - Baton Rouge, LA
 - Nashville, TN
 - Memphis, TN
 - Houston, TX
 - Webster, TX
- Unitech Training Academy:
 - Metairie, LA
 - Lake Charles, LA
 - Alexandria, LA
 - Houma, LA
 - West Monroe, LA
 - Lafayette, LA
- Ross Medical Education Center:
 - Davison, MI
 - Brighton, MI
- Saint Paul College, Saint Paul, MN
- Johnston Community College, Smithfield, NC
- Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC
- Ross Education, LLC – Niles Campus 207, Niles, OH
- Virginia College, Lubbock, TX
- Granite Technical Institute, Salt Lake City, UT



New Accreditation Standard is in Effect

The new [ASHP – ACPE Accreditation Standard for Pharmacy Technician Training Programs](#) has gone into effect. The update allows training programs to have more flexibility regarding the number and types of student experiential activities that must be performed. The standard requires at least one and encourages two contemporary pharmacy practice experiences. Accredited pharmacy technician education and training programs also must now include didactic education in sterile and nonsterile compounding. Accredited programs can determine whether they provide hands-on training in sterile compounding, nonsterile compounding, or both.

The new standard, a [Guidance Document](#), and the Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training (also known as the Model Curriculum) are all available on the ASHP website. The guidance document and model curriculum provide examples to assist in implementing the new standard and creating a successful ASHP/ACPE-accredited program. [Click here for more information.](#)

Questions? Email asd@ashp.org.

PTEC Annual Meeting Set

The next PTEC meeting will be held July 14-16, 2016, in Charlotte, NC. [Click here](#) for information on registration for the meeting, which will feature many helpful sessions, including how to prepare for an ASHP/ACPE accreditation survey, an update from ASHP's Accreditation Services Division, and much more. This meeting will enable participants to:



- Build professional networks.
 - Collect resources for the classroom.
 - Learn about ASHP/ACPE accreditation.
 - Gain insight from experienced educators.
 - Connect with publishers and vendors.
 - Earn ACPE-accredited continuing pharmacy education.
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Curious about Which Accreditation Survey Areas are Cited Most Frequently?

As a pharmacy technician training program director or educator, you may be interested to know which areas are most often cited as noncompliant or partially compliant during accreditation surveys.

During the last survey cycle (February 2015-July 2015), ASHP accreditation services staff compiled reports from all surveys and found commonly cited areas for improvement under each standard. They are as follows:

Standard 1: Administration

Strategic Plan (Item 1.2)

It's important to note that strategic plans must be specific to your particular program and address desired outcomes such as student graduation and/or technician employment rates. You and/or your team also should regularly analyze the plan to ensure that the goals are reasonable and achievable.

The following three areas related to strategic plans are commonly cited during surveys:

- The strategic plan does not state the role of the program within the community.
- The strategic plan does not state specific, measurable objectives.
- The strategic plan does not address program outcomes.

Advisory Committee (Items 1.4, 1.4a, 1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d, 1.4e)

The following areas related to advisory committees are commonly cited during surveys:

- There is not an advisory committee.
- The advisory committee does not consist of a broad-based group of pharmacists, faculty, technicians, and others as deemed appropriate.
- The advisory committee does not meet at least twice a year.
- The advisory committee does not have specific authority for affirming the following items (standards 1.4a-1.4e):
 - Standard 1.4a: The curriculum makes possible the attainment of all educational goals and objectives.
 - Standard 1.4b: Criteria for experiential training sites.
 - Standard 1.4c: Criteria for admission.
 - Standard 1.4.d: Criteria for successful completion of the program should be discussed and affirmed by your advisory committee.
 - Standard 1.4e: Training program's strategic plan.

Keep in mind that surveyors will always ask for documentation that demonstrates that the advisory committee has affirmed the above standards for the program.

Information about the program (items 1.6c, 1.6d)

- The program does not provide applicants information about the requirements for state registration or licensure as a pharmacy technician.
- The program does not provide applicants information about legal restrictions on national and state registration.

These two standards (1.6c and 1.6d) are often cited together. Be sure to review all items under this standard and provide it to applicants in your informational brochures or application forms.

Standard 3: Education & Training Program

Experiential (Item 3.3.h(6))

- The program director does not review experiential training sites annually.

Please be aware that surveyors will be looking for documentation that the program director or designee visits each experiential site annually to ensure the training site's quality. Be sure to keep an up-to-date file of all experiential sites, and ensure that the site and staff members are licensed and provide a good training experience for your students.

It's difficult to capture every one of the most commonly cited survey areas in one short newsletter. We will address other frequent findings in upcoming issues of the Technician TABLET. If you have difficulty interpreting any of the standards, consult the Guidance Document on the ASHP website or email your questions to asd@ashp.org.

PTAC Changes

Welcome to our newest PTAC member Karen R. Snipe, CPhT (PTCB, SCBOP), B.A., M.A.Ed. Karen has been a pharmacy technician educator for 23 years and is the pharmacy technician program coordinator at Trident Technical College, SC.

Many thanks to PTAC member Douglas Scribner, CPhT, who has finished his PTAC term. We appreciate his hard work and noteworthy contributions. The next PTAC will be held May 4-5, 2016, at ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, MD.

Have a suggestion for an upcoming *Technician TABLET* newsletter article? Send it to us at asd@ashp.org.

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Don't Forget to Keep Your Online Directory Info Up-to-Date

This information, including all contact information for the program director administration, is important for program recruitment (a great place for prospective students to learn about the program) and employers may refer to it when they have job openings for technicians in the area. It's a free benefit to all candidate and accredited programs.

Do you have a new program director? If so, be sure to email this information to asd@ashp.org. Keeping this information current will ensure that ASHP can reach the appropriate people with information on accreditation visit scheduling, progress report notifications, billing, and other accreditation-related communications.

