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 - ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting - December 3-7, 2023, Anaheim, California



PTAC Biannual Meeting

May 2-3, 2023 Bethesda

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The ASHP and ACPE Boards of Directors approved the following survey site visit reports reviewed by the commission for accreditation: 14 new programs and 10 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (7) and special case reports (17) were also reviewed along with 30 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 250 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

- Baptist Health South Florida Miami Lakes, Florida
- Carle Health Pharmacy Technician University Urbana, Illinois
- College of Southern Maryland La Plata, Maryland
- Gateway Pharmacy Bismarck, North Dakota
- ProMedica Health System Toledo, Ohio
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nashville, Tennessee
- Montgomery County Public Schools (Virginia) Christianburg, Virginia
- Pulaski County High School Career and Technical Education Dublin, Virginia
- J.T. Pharmacy Technical Training Program Richmond, Virginia
- UVA Health Department of Pharmacy Services Charlottesville, Virginia
- BreMo Pharmacy Richmond, Virginia
- Frederick County Public Schools Pharmacy Technician Academy Winchester, Virginia
- Wytheville Community College Wytheville, Virginia

Reaccreditation

- Malcolm X College Chicago, Illinois
- Walgreen Co. Deerfield, Illinois
- Delta College Covington, Louisiana
- MedCerts Livonia, Michigan
- Guilford Technical Community College High Point Campus High Point, North Carolina
- Rite Aid Pharmacy Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
- Chattanooga State Technical Community College Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Piedmont Virginia Community College Charlottesville, Virginia
- Yakima Valley College Yakima, Washington

Promotion of the Pharmacy Technician Profession to High School Students

The subcommittee comprised of Matthew Kelm, Matthew Rewald, Nichole Foster, Janet Kozakiewicz, Amisha Arya, and Lisa Lifshin of PTAC met to investigate how to promote the pharmacy profession to high school students. First steps of the subcommittee include compiling a list of testing agencies to investigate the feasibility of adding the pharmacy technician profession on student skills assessment tests; understanding the various guidance counselor organizations as a path to share information about the pharmacy technician profession; and, a plan to meet with ASHP's Office of Marketing and Communications to look at co-marketing the use of Matthew Rewald's webinar from the Mayo Clinic on the role of the pharmacy technician.

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

Hannah Post and Matthew Kelm provided an update regarding the progress that the subcommittee has made on the pilot project researching credit for prior learning (CPL) for pharmacy technician education and training programs. Two pilot programs are being evaluated – one at Duke University Health System Pharmacy Technology Training Program and the other at Yale New Haven Hospital. Updates on their progress will be provided at the October PTAC meeting.

Future actions include: presentation of complete technician portfolios to the PTAC for approval, engagement of chain pharmacies in future pilots in the credit for prior learning process, and provision of a pathway for academic credits towards program completion for college programs.

PTCB Update

Ryan Burke, Director of Professional Affairs at PTCB, provided an update which included a white paper summarizing the results of the 2022 PTCB Workforce Survey. Other announcements include NCPA joining the PTCB Board of Directors, and the integration of the Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC) as a new division of PTCB. Projects for 2023 include the relaunch of online testing for assessment-based certificate programs.

Annual Survey Update

The Annual Survey was distributed in late July this year due to database issues. Please make sure and send in your completed survey by August 14, 2023.

A discussion about the completion rates for the annual survey included data that shows that not all program directors complete it, or do not complete it in a timely fashion. One potential cause of this issue was identified as the large turnover rates for program directors and lack of understanding about how to answer some questions.

Amy Hyduk-Cardillo, Accreditation Associate; 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 convened to review and update the survey questions for this year. The main changes include the removal of COVID-19 questions; addition of questions regarding health system programs to gather information for



capacity, information regarding the health system workforce shortage, job retention for those completing programs; and, clearer questions regarding didactic training (live versus virtual training). In addition, stronger language has been added to illustrate that completion of the survey is mandatory as one of the elements to continue accreditation. Data from the survey will be presented at the October 2023 PTAC meeting.



Health System Pharmacy Leaders Toolkit for Advancement of Pharmacy Technicians

The importance of information regarding completion of an ASHP/ACPE accredited program and PTCB certification as recognition for different roles, jobs, and compensation to human resource departments and health system administrators was discussed at the October 2022 PTAC meeting. A committee was formed (Janet Kozakiewicz, Matthew Rewald, Amisha Arya, Melissa Heigham, Tate Trujillo, and Lisa Lifshin) to develop a toolkit to include justification for the development of an ASHP/ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training program; information regarding the development of pharmacy technician career ladders; resources already in the literature regarding these areas; and, substantiation to provide justification for increased compensation for pharmacy technicians with aforementioned credentials and skills. Melissa Heigham discussed the advantages of developing grass roots efforts within large health systems so that other facilities could learn from them. For example, large health systems using completion of an ASHP/ACPE accredited technician education and training program and national certification to elevate practice and enable pharmacy administrators to effectively lobby for increased compensation for pharmacy technicians based on these credentials. Matthew Rewald presented the SBAR that a health system pharmacy administrator could utilize to justify approval of an ASHP/ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training program as well as pharmacy technician career ladders. More work is underway to expand the toolkit to include more information about compensation. Members of the PTAC felt that this information could be shared with other learning environments that would need SBARs to start programs, such as pharmacy schools and community colleges. The toolkit is expected to be completed by the October 2023 PTAC meeting.

Revision of the Guidance Document for the Accreditation Standard

The updated Guidance document for the Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Standard was presented by Eric Grace who worked with Renee' Acosta,

Sheri Roumell Fulfer, and Lisa Lifshin to review and update the document. Once final updates are approved it will be posted to ASHP's website.

Coming Soon: New Method to Submit Pre-survey Documents

Keep a lookout for information regarding a new system to submit pre-survey documents through ASHP's new web-based system. Instructions will be sent to all program directors once the final process is defined.

Webinar Series: Completion of Pre-survey Packet

Autumn Pinard is in the final phases of recording a webinar series on how to complete the pre-survey packet in preparation for a pharmacy technician accreditation survey. Areas of focus include how to complete the academic crosswalk; filling out the pre-survey questionnaire; establishing differences between an entry and advanced program; improving awareness of the differences between didactic learning and simulation versus externship (e.g., Blooms Taxonomy). These webinars will be excellent tools for new and established program directors to use in concert with the updated guidance document in preparing for a survey and/or responding to survey reports.

Multi-site Programs

Lisa Lifshin described an increasing number of multi-site programs within health systems and high schools. PTAC will continue to monitor this area in case new regulations may be required to address issues specific to this format.

Evaluation of a "Boot Camp" Concept

The concept of developing a workshop as well as quarterly webinars to educate new and existing program directors was discussed and will be further evaluated in the revision of the new standards and regulations.

New Resources - Technician Education and Training Webinars

There are new video resources available for program directors located on [ASHP's website](#). From Application to Site Survey: Beginning the Accreditation Process for Technician Programs joins two previously developed webinars (Advisory Committees for Technician Programs and Developing a Strategic Plan for Your Pharmacy Technician Program) as ASHP continues to build its library of resources. Future planned webinars include a focus on Responding to a Survey Report.

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 \(video 2 of 2 – December 2018\)](#)

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)

Pharmacy Technician Forum

Other Resources

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

[PTCB's Practice Tools](#)

Education and Workforce Development

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

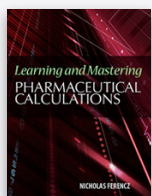
[Pharmacy Workforce Center \(PWC\)](#)

Products and Services



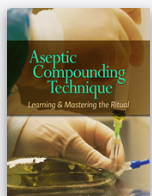
Earn an ASHP Professional Certificate in Sterile Product Preparation Training

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.



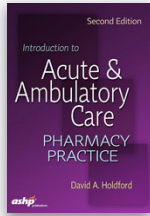
***Learning and Mastering Pharmaceutical Calculations* by Nicholas Ferencz**

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, Fourth 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