THE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TABLET

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PTAC Biannual Meeting
May 1-2, 2024, Bethesda, Maryland

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The ASHP and ACPE Boards of Directors approved the following survey site visit reports reviewed by the pharmacy technician accreditation commission (PTAC): 8 new programs and 14 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (19) and special case reports (20) were also reviewed. As of the date of the meeting, 256 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

- University of Kentucky Pharmacy Technician Academy — Lexington, Kentucky
- Trinity Health — Livonia, Michigan
- Stepful — Detroit, Michigan
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) — Cincinnati, Ohio
- Southwest Technical College — Cedar City, Utah
- Virginia Beach City Public Schools Technical and Career Education Center — Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Washington County Career & Technical Education Center — Abington, Virginia
- Chesterfield Career and Technical Center — Chesterfield, Virginia

Reaccreditation

- Central Arizona College – San Tan Campus — San Tan Valley, Arizona
- Columbus Technical College — Columbus, Georgia
- Atlanta Technical College — Atlanta, Georgia
- Central Georgia Technical College — Macon, Georgia
- Albany Technical College — Albany, New York
- Unitech Training Academy – Baton Rouge — Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Forsyth Technical Community College — Winston Salem, North Carolina
- Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Memphis — Memphis, Tennessee
- Northwest Vista College — San Antonio, Texas
- Vernon College — Wichita Falls, Texas
- JATC North Pharmacy Tech Program — West Jordan, Utah
- Tooele Community College — Tooele, Utah
- Dixie Technical College — St. George, Utah
- North Seattle College — Seattle, Washington

PTCB Update

Ryan Burke, Director of Professional Affairs at PTCB, provided an update on PTCB's job analysis report with an expected creation and implementation date of August 2024 for the new preliminary exam blueprint. Online testing centers for both the CPhT and CSPT certification examinations became available in February 2024. A new Online series with interviews of employers investing in pharmacy technicians is also being developed. The Inaugural Leadership Institute for Pharmacy Technicians met in May with plans to include multiple cohorts each year. The PTEC meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina July 11-13th.

Legislative Updates

Kyle Robb described key pharmacy technician policy hot topics including scopes of practice; oversight and supervision; training, education, and credentialing; and, pharmacy technician seats on boards of pharmacy (19 states and Puerto Rico currently have dedicated pharmacy technician board seats). Other key data pints include states that require pharmacy technicians to be licensed, registered or certified with the State Board of Pharmacy (48 plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico) and states that have adopted formal training requirements for pharmacy technicians (41). ASHP advocacy for pharmacy technicians includes a new, technician product verification initiative with a goal of allowing all 50 states to allow this function. Currently, 28 states affirmatively permit some form of technician verification while 22 states do not authorize any form of technician verification. Policy variations among the states along with advocacy opportunities and development of an ASHP Technician Product Verification Model Legislation were discussed. A resource center has been developed and can be found at the following link: https://www.ashp.org/advocacy-and-issues/key-issues/pharmacy-technicians/pharmacy-technician-product-verification

Credit for Prior Experience and Non-traditional Pharmacy Education and Training Programs

PTAC voted to approve a path towards Credit for Prior Experience: The Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) supports mechanisms by which more candidates can complete accredited pharmacy technician training programs. The commission believes providing credit for prior experience is an important enhancement to making accredited training accessible to students. Policies are in development for how programs can utilize Credit for Prior Experience.

Health System Pharmacy Leaders Toolkit for Advancement of Pharmacy Technicians

The Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Program Toolkit for Hospital and Health System Leaders has been finalized. The toolkit will provide pharmacy leaders with many resources from justifying and developing an accreditation-worthy program to ideas for career advancement and career ladders which provide opportunities for advancement and may improve retention. This information will also be useful for health system pharmacy leaders to share with their administrators.

A special thanks from PTAC to the current and past members that worked extensively to put the toolkit together (Janet Kozakiewicz, Matthew Rewald, Amisha Arya, Melissa Heigham, Tate Trujillo). The toolkit is now in the final phases for production to be distributed for use by health system directors of pharmacy and administrators.

The Pharmacy Technician Society℠ (TPTS)

Hannah Vanderpool provided the Commission with an update on TPTS activities. Autumn Pinard shared the infographic template that the TPTS and PTAC/Accreditation Services Office (Amisha Arya and Sheri Roumell Fulfer) completed to publicize the role of the pharmacy technician. Organizations that wish to use the template can download it from Canva, the free-to-use online graphic design tool, at the following link: Pharmacy Technician marketing template

Instructions to access, update, customize, and download for use:

1. Click on the Canva template link above.

2. Click "Use Template" button.

3. Click on the frame you want to edit. There are only two. One at the top for the logo and one at the bottom for the QR code.

4. Select UPLOADS in the left toolbar and click the UPLOAD MEDIA button to add your photo to the image library.

5. Drag and drop your photo into the frame.

6. To reposition, double-click your photo and adjust.

To download your image, click SHARE, select file type, then DOWNLOAD.

Fundamentals of Accreditation

Sam Calabrese, Vice President of Accreditation Services, presented an overview of the fundamentals of accreditation. The presentation provided a valuable perspective on the purpose of accreditation and associated standards with a focus on the value they bring to our programs. These perspectives, along with the state of current and future pharmacy technician practice, patient safety, and the importance of incorporating necessary elements of pharmacy technician education and training, will be considered as a standard revision is drafted. PTAC members appreciated the discussion and gained a broader perspective of the importance of accreditation to our programs and the public.

Standard Revision 2024-2025

PTAC members discussed the goals for the Standard revision process with an anticipated completion by July 2025.

Annual Survey

The 2024 Annual Survey is in the final stages of development with an anticipated release timeframe of late fall 2024.

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 (TPTS℠)

Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC)

Pharmacy Workforce Center (PWC)

Other Resources

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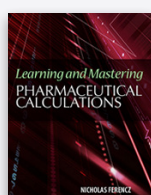(search for Pharmacy Technicians under the Topics section)

PTCB's Practice Tools
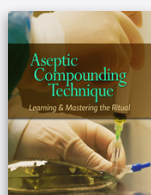
Products and Services

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.
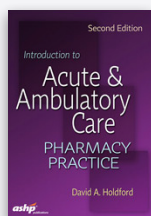
Learning and Mastering Pharmaceutical Calculations by Nicholas Ferencz

A valuable supplement to any pharmacy math course or textbook for students, technicians, or practitioners who look to sharpen their critical calculation skills.
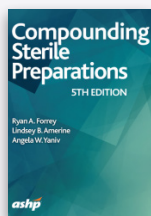
Aseptic Compounding Technique: Learning and Mastering the Ritual by Zachary Thomas Jordan

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