THE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TABLET

IN THIS ISSUE

PTAC Biannual Meeting
May 4-5, 2022 Bethesda, MD (Virtual)

Externship Hours – Resuming pre-COVID Requirements January 1, 2023

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, ASHP/ACPE has made a special exception to the required externship hours for both entry-level and advanced-level programs due to many programs' inability to procure externship sites during the height of the pandemic. **PTAC members determined that the shortened externship hours (96 for entry level, 150 for two rotations for advanced) will be allowed through December 31, 2022 with requirements reverting to pre-COVID hours as of January 1, 2023.** All entry level programs **MUST** have at least 130 hour for their externship hours in one rotation and all advance level programs **MUST** have at least two rotations equaling a total of at least 200 hours as of January 1, 2023.

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The ASHP and ACPE Boards of Directors approved the following survey site visit reports reviewed by the commission for accreditation: 2 new programs and 13 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (11) and special case reports (9) were also reviewed along with 25 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 234 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

- Pickens Technical College, Aurora, Colorado
- Asher College – Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

Reaccreditation

- North Orange Continuing Education, North Orange County Community College District, Anaheim, California
- Front Range Community College, Westminster, Colorado
- Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana
- North Central Kansas Technical College, Hays, Kansas
- Sullivan University, Louisville, Kentucky
- Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- Sierra Nevada Job Corps, Reno, Nevada
- Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon
- Greenville Technical College, Greenville, South Carolina
- Spartanburg Community CollegevSpartanburg, South Carolina
- Cisco College, Abilene, Texas
- Lamar State College – Orange, Orange, Texas
- College of the Mainland, Texas City, Texas

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*.

Review of Credit for Prior Learning and Non-traditional Learning

At this meeting, PTAC members voted to develop a framework for granting credit for prior learning to be presented at the October, 2022 PTAC meeting. The subcommittee will be working on the logistics of the process. More details coming soon.

Apprenticeships and Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs
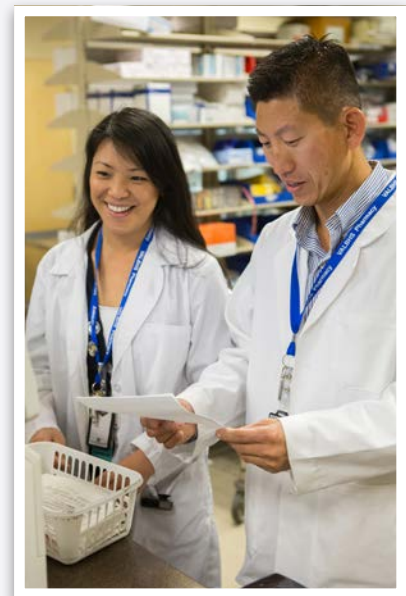
Marissa Brooks, ASHP Fellow, provided an extensive overview and crosswalk of the ASHP/ACPE pharmacy technician education and training standards with the US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Standards. PTAC continues to evaluate the best way to align pharmacy technician education and training programs which would enable them to access apprenticeship dollars/grants. An overview of a model of apprenticeships and workforce development being implemented in Illinois was presented based on information provided by Pete Vlasses, Jan Kerestzes, and Sheeri Speakman. The importance of understanding the US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Standards along with state programs was emphasized. The PTAC will continue to review this area. Please forward any of your experiences with apprenticeships to Lisa Lifshin at llifshin@ashp.org.

Legislative Updates

Lisa Lifshin provided an update on her work with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the development of a career path for high school students to become pharmacy technicians through coursework at the high school level. To date, nine high school-based programs have applied for accreditation.

New Virginia Board of Pharmacy regulations took effect as of July 1, 2022 outlining the requirements to be eligible for registration as a pharmacy technician. Please see the Virginia Board of Pharmacy website for details. Virginia regulations have also spurred an increase applications for program accreditation including from a grocery store chain with over 800 pharmacies in the Virginia and District of Columbia Metro area.

The Illinois regulations requiring completion of an ASHP/ACPE accredited program will come into effect on January 1, 2024 (delayed due to COVID). An increase in applications in anticipation of the implementation of the new regulations is expected.

The Texas Board of Pharmacy met in May 2022 and, unfortunately, voted in favor to repeal amendment §305.2 which required that pharmacy technician training programs be accredited by ASHP/ACPE. Ryan Burke indicated that the proposed repeal would now be published in the Texas Register so there will be time for additional public comment. Keep posted for more to come in this area at future Texas Board of Pharmacy meetings.

PTCB Update

Ryan Burke, Director of Professional Affairs at PTCB, provided an update from the organization which is continuing to track pharmacy technician regulations at the state level. Up to twenty-three states have made technician immunization permanent in their regulations and thirteen states have implemented seats for pharmacy technicians in their Boards of Pharmacy. PTCB hosted an event for the pharmacy technician state board of pharmacy members at the upcoming National Boards of Pharmacy meeting.

In preparation for the upcoming regulation change for pharmacy technicians in Illinois, PTCB will be sending a communication to all programs in the state to explain the difference between PTCB Recognition and ASHP/ACPE Accreditation and provide them with the information to learn more about seeking ASHP/ACPE accreditation.

Farewell to Retiring Board Members

The PTAC thanked Chuck Daniels and Denise Frank for their utmost service to the PTAC. Chuck served two terms on the PTAC and Denise served one. Their expertise and unwavering devotion to ensuring the quality of pharmacy technician training and education will be missed on the Commission. Their thoughtful additions to discussions of the PTAC will be missed.

Review of *PharmTECH Ready*

Kathy Pawlicki, Vice President, Business Development and Strategy and Daniel Cobaugh, Vice President, Publishing and Editor in Chief, AJHP provided an update on the new ASHP product, *PharmTECH Ready*, a comprehensive online technician training program developed to address the current technician workforce shortage, a top priority for pharmacy leaders nationwide. More information can be found here.

Aligned with PTAC accreditation requirements and the ASHP/ACPE Model Curriculum for a Technician Training Program, content will prepare technicians for the workforce and the PTCB certification examination and features active learning modalities, pharmacology modules, access to AHFS, and medications list/ terminology flashcards.

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: http://ptcb.org/get-certified/prepare/practice-exam-and-tools

Education and Workforce Development

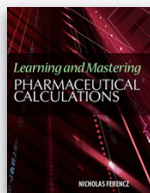Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC)
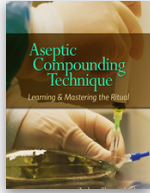
Pharmacy Workforce Center (PWC)

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.
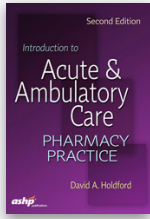
Learning and Mastering Pharmaceutical Calculations by Nicholas Ferencz

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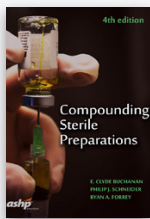
Aseptic Compounding Technique: Learning and Mastering the Ritual by Zachary Thomas Jordan

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