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New Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs

On July 10, 2018, ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) released revised national standards that will serve as a guide for the development of ASHP—ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training programs.

The [Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs](#) serve as the criteria for the evaluation of new and established pharmacy technician training programs, and will help to ensure that pharmacy technicians possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for their critical



role on the healthcare team. The revised standards place additional emphasis on the educational outcomes expected of students and the methods used by training programs to assess competency. The standards now define competencies that differentiate entry-level and advanced training. They also address the structural and process-related elements needed for programs to implement evidence-based outcome measures that document achievement of the requirements.

The standards will become effective for new programs on January 1, 2019. Existing accredited pharmacy technician programs will be required to incorporate the new standards into their programs by January 1, 2020, and notify the [Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission](#) (PTAC) regarding their intention to train students at the entry-level, advanced-level, or both.

The number of standards has increased from six to 15. Each individual standard highlights the key elements that must be met to demonstrate compliance. The key elements model those in pharmacist education and training programs, and place emphasis on collaboration with pharmacists and other healthcare staff. Minimum hour requirements for programs were revised to reflect the education and training needs for entry-level and advanced-level competencies.

A number of environmental factors, including changes in state laws allowing for expanded roles, responsibilities, and authority for pharmacy technicians, prompted the reassessment of the standards, which were last revised in 2015. A broad range of stakeholders interested in or affected by pharmacy technician education and training offered input on the revisions. ASHP and ACPE also considered the recommendations of the [2017 Pharmacy Technician Stakeholder Consensus Conference](#), recent blueprints and task analyses of nationally accredited pharmacy technician certifying bodies, and the experience gained by the PTAC in its review of training programs.

Supplemental materials — a guidance document and model curriculum — are being revised to align with the new standards. The guidance document will be updated to provide examples and explanations of the standards and key elements. The model curriculum will serve as a guide for new programs as they develop their course offerings and provide direction for established programs that are reviewing their curriculum. The supplemental materials will be released in early 2019.

PTAC Biannual Meeting May 1-2, 2018 Bethesda, MD

PTAC held its biannual meeting May 1-2, 2018 in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition to reviewing survey reports and applications for new program directors, commission members also discussed and approved the adoption of new ASHP/ACPE pharmacy technician training and education standards effective.

Program Accreditation/Reaccreditation

The Commission reviewed survey site visit reports for 8 new programs and 22 previously accredited programs seeking reaccreditation. Midterm reports (10) and special case reports (24) were also reviewed along with 15 applications for new program directors. As of the date of the meeting, 254 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

- Arizona College, Mesa, Arizona
- Emily Griffith Technical College, Denver, Colorado
- Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut
- Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Ferriday, Louisiana
- Charter Health Care Training Center, Flint, Michigan
- JATC North Pharmacy Tech Program, West Jordan, Utah
- Career Step, LLC, Lehi, Utah

Reaccreditation

- George C. Wallace State Community College - Hanceville, Hanceville, Alabama
- Virginia College of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama
- Arizona College of Allied Health, Glendale, Arizona
- Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center, Sacramento City Unified School District, Sacramento, California
- Technical Education Center Osceola, Kissimmee, Florida
- Altierus Career College, Tampa, Florida
- Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta, Georgia
- Central Georgia Technical College, Macon, Georgia
- Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, Maryland
- Durham Technical Community College, Durham, North Carolina
- Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston Salem, North Carolina
- Cuyahoga Community College, Highland Hills, Ohio
- Cleveland Clinic School of Pharmacy Technology, Cleveland, Ohio
- Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood, South Carolina
- Central Carolina Technical College, Sumter, South Carolina
- Remington College - Columbia, Columbia, South Carolina
- Southwest Tennessee Community College, Memphis, Tennessee
- Vernon College, Wichita Falls, Texas
- Medical Education and Training Campus, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas
- Remington College - Dallas Campus, Dallas, Texas
- Renton Technical College, Renton, Washington
- Chippewa Valley Technical College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Midyear Clinical Meeting

December 2-6, 2018 Anaheim, California

Keynote Speaker



Earvin "Magic" Johnson is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Magic Johnson Enterprises. Since retiring from the NBA over 20 years ago, the legendary basketball star has morphed into a business powerhouse who has dedicated his life to leaving a positive impact in underserved urban communities. Having left the basketball court for the boardroom, Johnson parlayed the skills and tenacity he acquired on the court into a winning formula for successful business ventures.

Still a commanding presence in the sports world, he made history in 2012 when he became co-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a Major League Baseball franchise. He also co-owns the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA and Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Football Club.

The Lansing, Michigan native is constantly evolving and remaining relevant in a dynamic digital age by broadening his scope into infrastructure and technology. Operating under the philosophy that true success is making others successful, he is also one of the leading investors in a number of minority-owned tech companies

Johnson serves as Chairman and Founder of the Magic Johnson Foundation, where his commitment to transform urban America continues through HIV/AIDS awareness and educational programs. Remaining true to his humble Lansing beginnings, he is unwaveringly dedicated to working with partners to bring jobs and high quality products and services to underserved communities

Pharmacy Technician CE

Once again, the Midyear Clinical Meeting will offer over 50 pharmacy technician-specific sessions covering a wide variety of topics including many that will provide continuing education credit. A list of the topics covered will be available in the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting website once the full agenda has been confirmed. To search for technician-specific sessions, enter "technician" in the filter box of the Full Agenda search function. Meeting registration opens July 19th.

ASHP Pharmacy Technician Forum

ASHP has been a leader in advancing the role of pharmacy technicians for decades, and we are excited to take things to the next level of membership involvement with the recently introduced ASHP Pharmacy Technician Forum.

The Pharmacy Technician Forum serves as a direct voice to ASHP to advise the Board of Directors on actions to advance the roles of pharmacy technicians, to elevate the technician profession, and to create benefits, tools, and resources to support our technician members.



The Inaugural ASHP Pharmacy Technician Forum Executive Committee held its first meeting during the 2018 Summer Meetings in Denver. Seated: Tiffany Kofroth, Director-at-Large; Barbara Hintzen, Chair; Tara McNulty, Director-at-Large; and Tyffani Wingfield ASHP Director of Member Engagement and Forum Secretary. Standing: Glen Gard, Director-at-Large; Margarita Fedorova, Director-at-Large; and Kelly Smith, ASHP President

ASHP technician members are automatically enrolled in the ASHP Pharmacy Technician Forum and will receive the following ASHP benefits:

- Access to PharmacyTechCE.org, which offers more than 40 hours of T-designated CE to meet requirements of PTCB certification, including law and medication safety
- A dedicated online resource center featuring valuable tools and information to help advance the technician profession at <https://www.ashp.org/>
- Exclusive access to technician-specific web resources and webinars
- Unlimited digital access to the world's premier pharmacy journal, AJHP—including the AJHP Pharmacy Technician Collection
- Free membership to any or all ASHP Sections
- Specialized email NewsLinks featuring technician-focused news and information
- A dedicated online technician community on [ASHP Connect](#)
- Exclusive member discounts on ASHP meeting registrations, publications and other products

Please share this information with your technician colleagues, and let them know to [sign up for complimentary Technician NewsLinks](#) to stay up to date with new developments from the Pharmacy Technician Forum.

To learn more about the ASHP Pharmacy Technician Forum visit www.ashp.org/technicians. Answers to commonly asked questions can be found in the [FAQ](#) section.

PTCB Updates

PTCB recently launched an online career center for job seekers and employers. The service is free for job seekers and available for a fee for employers. More information about the new service can be found in the May 8, 2018 [Press Release](#) and at <https://careers.ptcb.org>.

PTEC Updates

The PTEC Annual Conference was held July 12-14, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

PTAC Meeting: October 23-24, 2018

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting: December 2-6, 2018 Anaheim, California

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.

Resources

Accreditation

[ASHP Pharmacy Technician Practice and Policy Accreditation Regulations, Standards, and Other Tools](#)
[Starting a Pharmacy Technician Training Program](#)
[Applying for Accreditation](#)
[Preparing for an Accreditation Survey](#)

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 \(PWC\)](#)

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