



Issue Brief



Revised Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training

Background

ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists) and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) on July 10, 2018, released revisions to the *Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs*, which serve as a guide for the development of ASHP/ACPE accredited pharmacy technician education and training programs.

[The standards are available here.](#)

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.

Entry-Level and Advanced Training

The revised standards now define competencies that differentiate entry-level and advanced training. The PTAC will evaluate programs on their ability to prepare students for either entry-level or advanced roles. Programs can choose to offer either an entry-level program, an advanced-level program, or a training program that offers both levels. The minimum hour requirements for programs were revised to reflect the education and training needs for entry-level and advanced-level competencies.

Structural and Process Elements

The standards also address the structural and process-related elements needed for programs to implement evidence-based outcome measures that document achievement of the requirements.

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.

Drivers for Revisions

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 a model curriculum are being revised to align with the new standards and will be released in early 2019. 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.

For More Information

ASHP

Lisa Lifshin

Senior Director, Pharmacy Technician
Accreditation and Residency Services
(301) 664-8720
llifshin@ashp.org

ACPE

Cynthia Avery

Director, Operations
(312) 664-3575
cavery@acpe-accredit.org

###