ASHP/ACPE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

Lisa S. Lifshin, B.S. Pharm.

Senior Director, Technician Program Accreditation, Residency Services

ASHP

TYPES OF PHARMACY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAMS

- **Certificate and degree programs in community colleges or technical schools**
- **College of Pharmacy associated programs**
- **Employer sponsored programs**
- **High school programs**
- **Military training programs**
- **Certification review courses**
- **Distance Learning Programs**

ashp

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (PTAC)

- **ASHP has been accrediting technician programs in the 1980's on a voluntary basis**
- **In 2012, NABP requests for ACPE to participate in pharmacy technician education and training accreditation**
- **PTAC formed through ASHP/ACPE collaboration in 2013**
- **ACPE Board approved ASHP standards, guidelines, and procedures for PTAC**
- **PTAC recommendations require approval of both ASHP and ACPE Boards**
- **First PTAC recommendations to ASHP and ACPE boards for accreditation actions occurred at their June 2015 meetings and were approved**

ashp | ACPE

ASHP/ACPE Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Programs

Purpose:

- **protect the public by ensuring the availability of a competent workforce;**

- **describe pharmacy technician education and training program development at the Entry-level and Advanced-level;**

- **provide criteria for the evaluation of new and established education and training programs; and**

- **promote continuous improvement of established education and training programs**

ashp® ACPE®

SECTION I: COMPETENCY EXPECTATIONS

Entry-Level

- **The program prepares students for practice as Entry-level pharmacy technicians in a variety of contemporary settings (e.g., community, hospital, home care, long-term care) and has students acquire knowledge, skills, behaviors, and abilities needed for such practice.**

Advanced-Level

- **The program prepares students for practice as Advanced-level pharmacy technicians, in a broad range of advanced roles in a variety of contemporary settings (e.g., community, hospital, home care, long-term care) and has students acquire additional knowledge, skills, behaviors, and abilities beyond those of the Entry-level pharmacy technician, needed for such advanced practice.**

ashp ACPE

Three Sections of the ASHP/ACPE Standards

- **SECTION I: COMPETENCY EXPECTATIONS**
  - Standards # 1 to 5

- **SECTION II: STRUCTURE AND PROCESS TO PROMOTE ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPETENCY EXPECTATIONS**
  - Standards # 6 to 13

- **SECTION III: ASSESSMENTS OF STANDARDS AND KEY ELEMENTS**
  - Standards # 14 to 15

SECTION I: COMPETENCY EXPECTATIONS

- **Standard 1: Personal/Interpersonal Knowledge and Skills**
  - Entry-level: 8 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 4 Key Elements
- **Standard 2: Foundational Professional Knowledge and Skills**
  - Entry-level: 8 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 3 Key Elements
- **Standard 3: Processing and Handling of Medications and Medication Orders**
  - Entry-level: 22 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 9 Key Elements
- **Standard 4: Patient Care, Quality and Safety Knowledge and Skills**
  - Entry-level: 8 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 5 Key Elements
- **Standard 5: Regulatory and Compliance Knowledge and Skills**
  - Entry-level: 8 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 2 Key Elements

ashp® | ACPE®

SECTION II: STRUCTURE AND PROCESS TO PROMOTE ACHIEVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

- **Standard 6: Authority and Responsibility provided to Program Director**
  - 9 Key Elements

- **Standard 7: Strategic Plan**
  - 2 Key Elements

- **Standard 8: Advisory Committee**
  - 5 Key Elements

- **Standard 9: Curricular Length**
  - Entry-level: 4 Key Elements
  - Advanced-level: 2 Key Elements

ashp AC PE

SECTION II: STRUCTURE AND PROCESS TO PROMOTE ACHIEVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Standard 9: Curricular Length

- **Entry-level: 400 hours, ≥ 8 weeks**
    - 300 hours divided as:
        - Didactic – 120 hours
        - Simulation – 50 hours
        - Experiential – 130 hours
    - 100 hours allocated as program director and faculty see fit
- **Advanced-level: 600 hours, ≥ 15 weeks (includes Entry-level hrs)**
    - 460 hours divided as:
        - Didactic – 160 hours (40 more hours beyond Entry-level)
        - Simulation – 100 hours (50 more beyond Entry-level)
        - Experiential – 200 hours (70 more hours beyond Entry-level)
    - 140 hours allocated as program director and faculty see fit

SECTION II: STRUCTURE AND PROCESS TO PROMOTE ACHIEVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES (cont.)

- **Standard 10: Curricular Composition and Delivery (includes distance learning expectations)**
  - 8 Key Elements; Distance Learning – 4 Key Elements
  - Entry-level: Students complete at least **one experiential rotation** in a dispensing pharmacy setting where the student will utilize skills learned during their entry-level curriculum
  - Advanced-level: Students complete at least **one additional experiential rotation**, in addition to any completed during an entry-level program. This advanced experiential rotation takes place in a facility where the student will utilize skills learned during the advanced-level curriculum.
- **Standard 11: Student Recruitment, Acceptance, Enrollment, and Representation -** 8 Key Elements
- **Standard 12: Faculty/Instructors -** 4 Key Elements
- **Standard 13: Documentation -** 8 Key Elements

ashp

SECTION III: ASSESSMENTS OF STANDARDS AND KEY ELEMENTS

- **Standard 14: Assessment of Competency Expectations**
  - 14.1 Student Learning Assessments – 6 Key Elements
  - 14.2 Program assessments – 5 Key Elements

    (a) program completion;

    (b) performance on national certification examinations or; performance on a psychometrically valid evaluation;

    (c) program satisfaction, including student, graduate, and employer satisfaction;

    (d) job placement; and

    (e) assessment data used in the continuous quality improvement process is actively maintained.

- **Standard 15: Assessments of Structure and Process**
  - 3 Key Elements

ashp® ACPE®

States With Required Completion of ASHP/ACPE Accredited Programs for Technicians

- **North Dakota**

- **Ohio**

- **Nevada**

- **Louisiana**

- **South Carolina Certified Technicians**

- **Utah-regulations in discussion**

- **Virginia-as of July 1, 2022**

- **Illinois-as of January 1, 2024**

ashp AC PE

Questions?

- **Contact: asd@ashp.org**

- **llifshin@ashp.org**

- **www.ashp.org**