

A C P E

**ACPE Update:
Assuring Quality in Pharmacy Education**

Spark
Brilliance

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Annual Meeting & Education

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Meet the Faculty

Jan Engle, PharmD, PhD (Hon), FAPhA, FCCP, FNAP
Executive Director, ACPE
Chicago, Illinois

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Learning Objectives

 ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

- Review the structure and functions of ACPE.
- Discuss ACPE updates for the following areas: Colleges/schools, CE, International Services Program, and Pharmacy Technician Accreditation.

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Some background... 




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ACPE – What do we do? 

- **ACPE Accredits:**
 - **Professional degree programs** (1932)
 - US Department of Education recognition, since 1952
 - Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition, since 2004
 - **Providers of continuing pharmacy education** (1975)
 - Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™ (founded with Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education [ACCME] and American Nurses Credentialing Center [ANCC]) (2009)
 - CPE Provider Accreditation (2024)
 - **Pharmacy technician programs** (2015)
 - Collaboration with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- **ACPE Internationally-accredits:**
 - **Professional degree programs** outside the USA and its territories (2011)



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ACPE Board of Directors and Commissions 

- Three appointees each by:
 - American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) – **educators**
 - American Pharmacists Association (APhA) – **practitioners**
 - National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) – **regulators**
- One appointee by:
 - ACPE – **non-pharmacy educator, public member**
- Three-year terms of office
- Commissions for CPE provider accreditation (12), International Commission (8), Pharmacy technician education accreditation (10 with ASHP)

The Board makes all determinations of compliance with accreditation and certification standards 

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ACPE Board of Directors

- Kimberly Croley, President (APhA, 2020-2026)
- Michael A. Moné, Vice President (NABP, 2006-2027)
- Diane Ginsburg, Treasurer (AACP, 2024-2027)
- Malcolm Broussard (NABP, 2025-2028)
- Susan Buechele (ACPE, 2022-2028)
- Kathy Campbell (APhA, 2024-2027)
- John Kirtley (NABP, 2014-2026)
- Amy Seybert, (APhA, 2019-2028)
- Cindy Stowe, (AACP, 2022-2028)
- Sharon Youmans (AACP, 2020-2026)





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Current State of College/School Accreditation





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Fall 2025 Status - By the numbers

Status	Number
Accredited	139
Accredited and on probation	2
Candidate status	1
Precandidate status	0
Programs under Teach Out Plans	2
Programs with approved online pathway	16
Extended pathway (campus-based)	3
Extended pathway (on-line)	2
Programs with accelerated curriculum	25




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Information is available on the ACPE website

ACPE requires the programs it accredits to meet the expectations of all 25 standards of ACPE's accreditation standards. Any standard the board finds to be partially compliant or non-compliant can be seen by clicking on the Detailed Program Accreditation History link for each College or School. The program has been years to bring the standard into compliance as per the Department of Regulation. It is important to review the program in compliance with all 25 ACPE accreditation standards.

- Accredited (139)
- Accredited with Probation (2)
- Candidate Status (2)
- Discontinued/Marginal (2)
- No Status Awarded (2)
- Proposed/Not Awarded (2)
- Withdrawn (2)

<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/accredited-programs-by-status/>

Note: we are in the process of re-doing our website

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Report of the Proceedings

- All accreditation actions from the Board meeting listed in the Report of the Proceedings

ACPE's Board of Directors meets annually to review the accreditation process and to approve ACPE's accreditation standards. The Board also reviews the accreditation process and to approve ACPE's accreditation standards. The Board also reviews the accreditation process and to approve ACPE's accreditation standards.

ACPE Report of Proceedings and Annual Report - Board of Directors

- 2024 Report of Proceedings
- 2023 Report of Proceedings
- 2022 Report of Proceedings
- 2021 Report of Proceedings
- 2020 Report of Proceedings

acpe-accredit.org

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2025 Domestic Site Visits

- ACPE site visits in 2025
 - 18 comprehensive visits
 - 17 focused visits
 - 1 visit to explore a complaint
 - 105 site team members!!
 - All volunteers

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Update from January and June 2025 ACPE Board Meetings



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January 2025 Board Meeting

- Board reviewed (colleges/schools):
 - 10 comprehensive evaluations for continued accreditation status (ETRs/ARs)
 - 1 focused visit evaluation (ETR/AR)
 - 27 Interim Reports
 - 70 Substantive changes
 - 20 Annual Monitoring responses
 - 19 complaints processed
 - 36 programs with a 10% decrease in annual budget
 - 44 programs reporting a net loss in annual budget for 2 consecutive years with 13 letters sent



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June 2025 Board Meeting

- Board reviewed (colleges/schools):
 - 12 comprehensive evaluations for continued accreditation status (ETRs/ARs)
 - 14 focused visit evaluations (ETR/AR)
 - 18 Interim Reports
 - 36 Substantive changes
 - 20 Annual Monitoring responses
 - 25 complaints processed
 - 3 letters sent to programs with a NAPLEX pass rate below the 2 SD threshold
 - 15 letters sent to programs with >30 first-time test takers that did not pass NAPLEX
 - 4 letters sent to programs with discrepancies between campus pass rates



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Standards 2025

- Standards 2025 were finalized and approved by the ACPE Board of Directors on July 1, 2024
- Each school must be in compliance with Standards 2025 by July 1, 2025
- All Colleges and Schools has been asked to provide a "readiness" report for Standards 2025 to assist ACPE in monitoring compliance (exception: Fall 2025 comprehensive on-site visits)
 - Due date was June 1, 2025
 - Staff reviewing all submissions now
- Findings will be made available to each program after the January 2026 ACPE Board of Directors meeting
 - Both the program's responses and the Board's response will be shared with the site team assigned to the program's next comprehensive on-site evaluation to verify implementation of the plans



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Standards 2025 – Next Steps

- Self-Study Workshop and Evaluator Training Workshop for Standards 2025 were offered summer 2024 and 2025
- A webinar to update already trained site team evaluators on Standards 2025 is available
- ACPE Pharmacy Accreditation Report Management System (PHARMS) is operational and replaced AAMS



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Changes in Annual Monitoring

- As of June 2024, the Board reviews trends in the overall number of first-time test takers failing the NAPLEX examination at each program
 - Programs with a large number of failures (defined as >30) yet still having an overall passing rate above the two standard deviation threshold, may be asked to identify the causes of such failures and provide action plans for reducing the number of first-time test takers failing the examination



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Changes in Annual Monitoring (NAPLEX)

- At the recent June 2025 meeting, the Board approved an update to policy 11.6.1, Changes and Trends in NAPLEX Outcomes, that also identifies a bright line of 60% for NAPLEX pass rate in addition to the two standard deviation threshold
- The program's NAPLEX pass rates among first-time test takers must equal or exceed ACPE's benchmark calculated as the national average minus two standard deviations OR 60% whichever is greater



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Changes in Annual Monitoring

- Within any seven-year period (policy 11.6.1.a): if the passing rate below 2 SD or 60% whichever is greater
 - 1st year : *letter* sent requiring root cause analysis for poor performance and action plan for improvement
 - 2nd year: *focused on-site evaluation* to explore program's compliance with accreditation standards
 - 3rd year: program requested to *meet* with ACPE Board of Directors
 - 4th year: program subject to *probationary* action
 - 5th year: program subject to *withdrawal* of accreditation



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Outcomes of the January 2025 Board Meeting

- Discussed academic year job placement data

	AY 2023	AY 2022	AY 2021	AY 2020	AY 2019	AY 2018
Response Rate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
# Graduates	12,792	13,836	14,453	14,411	14,805	14,879
Engaged in the profession (employed or post-grad educ/training)	80.95%	80.76%	79.28%	76.42%	79.33%	80.96%
Lost to follow-up	17.29%	18.23%	18.76%	21.91%	19.79%	18.3%



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Faculty Strength and Expertise



- National declines in applications and enrollment have led to decreases in program resources including faculty composition and strength
- ACPE stresses the need to ensure resources including faculty strength are maintained to meet program needs
 - Standards 10,18,19 require a sufficient cohort of faculty with academic credentials and expertise to deliver the curriculum
- To aid the Board in monitoring faculty cohorts including adjunct faculty at each program, *reporting on current faculty cohorts and expertise was added to the annual monitoring policy* beginning in July 2025



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Continuing Education Provider Accreditation



ACPE is celebrating 50 years of the CPE Provider Accreditation Program 1975 - 2025



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ACPE CPE Commission



- **Kathy Schott, PhD**, Vice President, Operations for CEImpact, a pharmacy education company – **Chair**
- **Mary Bridgeman, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, FASCP, FCCP, FNAP**, Clinical Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Internal Medicine Pharmacist, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-New Brunswick
- **Peter J. (P.J.) Hughes, PharmD, MSED, BCPS**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of Faculty Success and Continuing Professional Development, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama – **Immediate Past Chair**
- **Crystal Carter, MPA**, Client Strategist, Louisiana Pharmacists Association; Vice President, Association Management Strategies
- **Timothy Jacobs, PharmD, BCPPS**, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and Education Coordinator, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- **Nicholas Lehman, PharmD, BCACP**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Clinical Pharmacists – UnityPoint West Des Moines Family Medicine & Internal Medicine Clinics
- **Sarah Pagenkopf, Pharm.D., BCPS**, Director of Professional & Educational Services, ACPE Continuing Pharmacy Education Administrator, Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
- **Lisa McDonald Reyes, MPH**, Associate Director, USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Office of Continuing Professional Development, University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus
- **Elliot M. Sogol, PhD, RPh, FAPHA**, Director for Postgraduate Education and Continuing Education, University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy
- **Barbara Ellen Maguire Vick**, Associate Executive Director, North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- **Board Liaison: Kathy Campbell**, Community Pharmacy Owner



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Providers




	ACPE CPE Provider Accreditation	Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education
Accredited Provider	257	185
Commendation	10	40
Probation	2	3
Inactive Status	2	0

Note: Academic, educational companies, healthcare networks and associations comprise 90% of the providership



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ACPE CPE Enterprise January – December 2024

	ACPE CPE Accredited Providers (N=267)	Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional CE Providers (N=176)
CE Activities Total	90,330	154,976
Home Study	44,685 (49%)	112,874 (73%)
Live	45,645 (51%)	42,101 (27%)
Activity Type: Learners		
Knowledge CE Learners	78% 3.2 million learners 56% pharmacists 44% pharmacy technicians	85% 3.5 million learners 61% pharmacists 39% pharmacy technicians
Application CE Learners	19% 1.3 million learners 81% pharmacists 19% pharmacy technicians	10% 751,000 learners 65% pharmacists 36% pharmacy technicians
Certificate Program CE Learners	81 (provided by 35 providers) 35,300 learners	



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CPE Initiatives – Guidance Documents for ACPE Accredited Providers



- Artificial Intelligence**
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become very prominent in the world of education. ACPE staff explored the impact of AI on continuing education activities. To identify the factors and experience of ACPE-accredited CE providers, ACPE staff distributed a survey to identify the impact of AI on continuing education programs. Results of the survey, a review of the literature, and discussion at the CPE Commission and the Board of Directors resulted in guidance for ACPE-accredited providers.
 - Note: ACPE conducted a follow-up to our 2023 survey in 2025 gathering information on the continued impact of AI on CE programs to better understand AI's role in CE



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CPE Initiatives – Guidance Documents



- Digital Badges
 - ACPE-accredited providers and the pharmacy profession have asked ACPE to explore the development of digital badges and/or guidance related to digital badging. The ACPE Commission and Board of Directors have approved guidance related to the development of digital badges.
- Certificate Programs
 - ACPE-accredited providers who use the term Certificate Program where the program does not meet the ACPE Standards and Policies must include a disclaimer: ***This is not an ACPE-defined Certificate Program; learners who complete this course will receive ACPE CPE credit but will not be awarded completion of a Certificate Program.***



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<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/continuing-education-provider-accreditation/>

Introduction	A Day of Recognition – Healthcare Education Professionals Day We're delighted to announce a new day of recognition for our esteemed healthcare continuing education professionals.
CE Apps and Platforms	
CE Newsroom	Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day is an opportunity to recognize and show our appreciation for our exceptional CE professionals. Each year, we'll celebrate on Friday during the first full week of January, beginning Friday, January 24, 2025.
Standards/Policies and Procedures	
ACPE Accredited Providers	ACPE Guidance The January 2025 ACPE Board of Directors and CRE Commission approved the following guidance for ACPE-accredited providers.
Joint Providership	
Tools and Resources	Artificial Intelligence Artificial intelligence (AI) has become very prominent in the world of education. ACPE staff explored a search to study the impact of AI on continuing education activities. To identify the factors and experience of ACPE-accredited CE providers, iACPE staff distributed a survey to identify the impact of AI on continuing education programs. Results of the survey, a review of the literature, discussion at the CPE Commission and the Board of Directors resulted in the following guidance for ACPE-accredited providers. For more information, please click here.
Education for Administrators	
Information for Learners	
Application Process	Digital Badges ACPE-accredited providers and the pharmacy profession have asked ACPE to explore the development of digital badges and/or guidance related to digital badging. The ACPE CPE Commission and Board of Directors have approved the following guidance related to the development of digital badges. For more information, please click here.




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Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- ACPE defines CPD as: “a self-directed, ongoing, systematic and outcomes-focused approach to lifelong learning that is applied into practice.”
- In January of 2024, ACPE began accepting applications to the CPD Program Accreditation Pathway.




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Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Providers who offer accredited CPD programs may award CPD units (CPDUs) for the completion of activities which reflect each component of the CPD cycle (i.e., 2 CPDUs for *Reflect*).

To date, four programs have received CPD accreditation:

- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*
- University of Florida College of Pharmacy*
- The University of Texas at Austin*
- ProCE, LLC*

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Continuing Professional Development Resources

- Examples of CPD for providers of CPD programs and pharmacy learners
- Guidance documents
- List of CPD publications
- CPD worksheets
- CPD Webinars
- Case Study Series: Examples of CPD in Practice

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CPE Monitor: Simplifying Licensure Compliance for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

A Collaborative Effort by NABP, ACPE, and ACPE-Accredited Providers

- CPE Monitor is a continuing pharmacy education (CPE) tracking service that authenticates and stores data for completed CPE units received by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from ACPE-accredited providers.

<p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enables tracking of ACPE-accredited CPE units ✓ Provides verified CPE data through NABP's e-Profile ✓ Streamlines compliance with licensure requirements 	<p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing multiple state licenses • Tracking varying complex CPE requirements • Meeting deadlines
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Upgrade to CPE Monitor Plus: Maximize Your CPE Experience

Enhanced Management Tool for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians



- CPE Monitor Plus is the ultimate upgrade for managing Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) with advanced tools and personalized features, staying on top of your license requirements has never been easier.

<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ iOS and Android mobile app; User-friendly ✓ Automatic alerts and tracking of CPE credits ✓ License status notifications ✓ State Requirements Overview ✓ Access to CE Search Engine (PLAN) 	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Add non-ACPE credits to transcript ✓ Reassign topic designators ✓ Advanced Reporting Tools to share with employers or licensing boards ✓ Access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) platform ✓ Available for students to complete CPD
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Upgrade to CPE Monitor Plus: Maximize Your CPE Experience



1. Go to www.nabp.pharmacy and log in to your e-Profile account.
2. Select the CPE Monitor Tile and look for the red upgrade button near the top of the page.
3. After the purchase (only \$12) process is complete, you can begin enrolling your licenses.

Please note: CPE details and requirements for the jurisdictions of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are not available for the Plus plan users at this time.

The fee is for maintenance of the licensure requirements rules engine and application.



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ACPE International-Accreditation





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International Commission



- Abdullah M. Alhammad, BSc, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, Chair
- Jenelle Sobotka, PharmD, FAPhA, Vice-Chair
- Sally Arif, PharmD, BCCP
- Joseph T. DiPiro, PharmD, FCCP
- Sherief Khalifa, PhD
- Donald E. Letendre, PharmD, FASHP
- Surakit Nathisuwan, PharmD, BCPS
- Thomas Paraidathathu, BPharmacy, MS, PhD
- Board Liaison: Cindy Stowe, PharmD



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By the numbers....



International-Accreditation	52
Provisional International-Accreditation	4
International-Preaccreditation	3
Initial Evaluation Visit Authorized	6



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ISP Initiatives



- Goal: to strengthen and streamline all aspects of the international program
 - Quality criteria (Standards) revision: Complete
 - Revised policies and procedures were released February 2025
 - Ninth Faculty Development Workshop to be offered January 16-17, 2026 in Ajman, UAE; "Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Education"
 - 2025: 24 schools participated from 8 countries
 - Exploring additional Faculty Development Workshop opportunities in other geographic regions.
 - Mission and Vision updated
 - Launch professional development opportunities to support internationally-accredited programs and those not recognized by ACPE to advance quality pharmacy education internationally.



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Countries with Programs holding International-Accreditation Status (n = 59) (45 schools; 12 countries)

- Egypt (15)
- India (1)
- Indonesia (1)
- Iraq (2)
- Jordan (15)
- Lebanon (1)
- Libya (1)
- Mauritius (2)
- Northern Cyprus (2)
- Oman (1)
- Saudi Arabia (9)
- United Arab Emirates (9)

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Countries with Programs holding International-Accreditation Status (n = 59)

Country	Programs	Schools
Egypt	15	6
India	1	1
Indonesia	1	1
Iraq	2	2
Jordan	15	13
Lebanon	1	1
Libya	1	1
Mauritius	2 (preaccreditation)	1
Northern Cyprus	2	1
Oman	1	1
Saudi Arabia	9	9
United Arab Emirates	9	8
Total	59	45

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ACPE International-Accreditation – more information

- Publication:

Narrative Reviews
Development and Evolution of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education's International Services Program
 Dawn Zarembski, Jacob Gettig, Janet P. Engle, *et al.*

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Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission






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Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC)

- Formed through ASHP/ACPE collaboration
- ACPE Board approved ASHP standards, guidelines, and procedures for PTAC
- PTAC recommendations require approval of both ASHP and ACPE Boards





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PTAC by the numbers...

ASHP/ACPE Accredited Pharmacy Technician Programs		BY THE NUMBERS	
	JANUARY 2025	JUNE 2025	
Number of ASHP/ACPE Accredited Programs	256	240	
New Applications	13	10	
Voluntary Withdrawals	4	17	
Reaccreditation Reviews	9	10	
Midterm Progress and Special Case Reviews	24	20	



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**Pharmacy Technician Accreditation
Standard Revision**




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Goals of Standards Revision

- Streamline the Standard, removing any unnecessary items and/or consolidate areas to facilitate the ease of use and understanding of the Standard amongst programs
- Maintain necessary elements in the Standard to ensure the quality of training, to produce qualified and competent pharmacy technicians to assist in providing pharmacy services, ensuring patient safety and aiding to positive health outcomes
- Ensure programs are meeting the needs of students and adequately preparing them for their future career
- Potentially increase applications for new pharmacy technician programs



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Summary of Changes
(from "old"/current to "new" Standard)

- There is now **one level** of pharmacy technician education and training program, **replacing** the option for *Entry-level* and *Advanced-level* pharmacy technician education and training standard
- Standards restructured from **15 standards** with key elements -> to **5 standards** focused on specific areas related to the technician education and training program
- **Minimum hour requirements** have been edited to reflect education and training needs have been one type of program, with the program director's discretion to add more hours if desired
- More emphasis has been placed on describing the **responsibility of the sponsoring organization** that is supporting and/or operating the pharmacy technician program(s) to be able to provide/support the program
- **More flexibility and description** in the criteria for serving as the **program director and faculty** for the program (clarity of program roles)
- **Decrease frequency** of the requirements of conduct of **Advisory Committee meetings**
- **No Strategic Plan** requirement



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Anticipated Timeline

DATE	ITEM / DESCRIPTION
Oct. 2025	PTAC vote to approve Standard and recommend to ASHP & ACPE BODs
Jan. 2026	ASHP & ACPE BODs vote to endorse the new Technician Standard
Feb. 2026	Notify Technician Programs of BOD vote outcomes and timeline of new Standard implementation
May 2026	Ancillary Resources for the new Technician Standard available
July 15, 2026	Earliest adoption of the new Standard by technician programs
Feb. 15, 2027	Mandatory adoption of the new Technician Standard



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Your Turn – Questions/Comments



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