

College of the Canyons
Pharmacy Technician
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021; 6:00-8:00am

Convened: 6:02 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Bakhit	Dean, Health Professions and Public Safety / COC
Hency Chu	Department Chair / COC
Arturo Dominguez	Pharmacist / CVS
Dana Haddadin	Registered Pharmacist / Rite Aid
Shadia Haddadin	Registered Pharmacist / Rite Aid
Carolyn Hoffman	Career and College Readiness Director / Hart School District
Elizabeth Peak	Pharmacist

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting by: Kathy Bakhit
Motion seconded by: Dana Haddadin
All approve

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss curriculum updates for the proposed Pharmacy Technician program. In addition, discussion will take place with the industry professionals in attendance, who will be asked to provide updates on both job forecast and scope of practice.

Introduction to Proposed Pharmacy Technician Program

Kathy Bakhit informs the meeting attendees that the Proposed Pharmacy Technician program will offer credit courses as opposed to noncredit courses, which was previously considered.

Shadi Haddadin developed the Pharmacy Technician Curriculum Development Plan. He begins with a brief overview of the Program Description before discussing the Program Design.

The Program Design is based off the accreditation of the American Society Health System Pharmacists (ASHP)/Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and will be an entry-level program. The primary goal of the program is to award a certificate as a Pharmacy Technician. The program will also prepare students to pass the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), if desired. In addition, the program will prepare students to apply for certification. College of the Canyons will need to apply for ASHP Accreditation.

Recommended Instructor qualifications are as follows:

- It is recommended that instructors be current in their licensure and ideally be active in the practice of pharmacy.
- Instructors for the majority of courses should include Registered Pharmacists or Certified Pharmacy Technicians.
- Pharmacology can be taught by a Pharmacist or Medical Doctor.

- Calculations-based courses can be taught by a Pharmacist or a Mathematics Instructor with guidance from a Pharmacist.
- Pharmacy-trained instructors should also be subscribers to the California Board of Pharmacy newsletter, *The Script*, as laws and guidelines can change during the course they are instructing.

Shadi will forward information on minimum qualifications for Instructors to Hency Chu.

Shadi moves on to discuss the Course Outline which includes PHAR 101, PHAR 102, PHAR 103, PHAR 104, PHAR 105, PHAR 107, PHAR 108 and PHAR 109. The course descriptions, learning objectives, and course outline are discussed in detail.

Hency will note how the courses will meet the ASHP curriculum standards in the Course Description.

During discussion on the overview of the *PHAR 101: Introduction to Pharmacy Practice* course, Elizabeth Peak commented that calculations and measurements should be taught by a Pharmacist rather than a math Professor, as their experience would help students gain a better grasp.

As Shadi gave an overview of the *PHAR 103: Health Information Management and Technology* course, Hency inquired about the virtual simulation that may be needed. Shadi informed her that while researching, he was unable to find software that would be required. Shadi will reach out to other colleges to inquire about the software that they use. Kathy Bakhit will begin searching through advertisements for software that are specific to the program.

While discussion was taking place on the *PHAR 105: Product Preparation Lab* course, Dana Haddadin mentioned that a lab is necessary to learn proper techniques and to simulate the experience of an actual pharmacy setting. Shadi and Elizabeth believe that a chemistry lab would suffice as a designated area for students to practice.

The equipment/materials that would be necessary for a lab were highlighted and are as follows:

- Measuring devices such as flasks, cylinders, syringes, scales, and weights
- Product preparation devices such as work benches, “sterile hoods,” preparation trays, counting trays, spatulas, jars, tubes, bottles, capsules, tablet press, troche mold, syringes, IV bags, ampules, vials
- Ingredients to manipulate for product preparation, such as solutes, solvents, sugar, alcohol, water, coloring dye, petroleum jelly, creams, lactose, etc. Importantly, most “ingredients” can be substituted for cheaper items to mimic the characteristic of actual ingredients used for preparation
- Safety and personal protective equipment such as gloves, hair bonnets, shoe covers, and gowns

Laboratory materials to be purchased by the students:

- Safety goggles
- Scrubs

As Shadi reviewed the *PHAR 107: Pharmacology* course with the meeting attendees, Kathy and Hency concluded that the Pharmacology course in the Nursing program should be reviewed to see if there is alignment. Kathy will email the Pharmacology course description to Hency.

After discussion concluded on the course descriptions, Hency reviewed the Program Viability Recommendations with the attendees.

Carolyn Hoffman shared that the Hart District has a Pharmacy Technician program leads students towards taking the Pharmacy Technician National Certification and graduating with their State license.

Carolyn will forward the Hart District course curriculum to Hency and Kathy, who will review how the courses are sequenced in comparison to the courses offered at COC. Future collaboration is planned with Carolyn for curriculum alignment.

The meeting attendees are in agreement to allow adjustments to the number of clinical hours in order to accommodate the ASHP requirements.

Industry

Kathy asked the industry professionals if they believe automation will negatively impact the labor market, which the LMI data suggests. Dana expressed that she believes the component of technician work that may be affected by automation will be the physical accounting of pills and bottle-filing. However, that does not pose an overall threat to the industry. Elizabeth agrees and emphasized the importance of keeping the curriculum focused more on the clinical side as roles are expanding.

Shadi explained that the industry is expanding by allowing Pharmacy Technicians to now administer vaccinations. Technicians are also getting more involved with medication reconciliation and IV preparation. Dana agreed and added that hospital technicians are now authorized to distribute second and third doses of medications for patients in addition to being allowed to load medication into the automated dispensing machine.

Elizabeth informed the attendees that jobs for Pharmacy Technicians have expanded to allow them to work for insurance companies as well as Doctors' offices to do prior authorizations.

Additional LMI data provided by Kathy included the following:

- A market growth of 9% over the next four years
- In 2020, there were 137 regional completions in programs related to the occupation identified as aligned with Pharmacy Technology and 146 openings (SCCR), however, of the 137 completions, 71 are in the categories of "allied health and medical assisting categories" and not pharmacy Technicians, per an email from Adele Hermann, the Director of the Center of Excellence who produced the report.

Kathy asked what the need is for Pharmacy Technicians in the current market. Shadi and Liz stated that they are always looking to hire at their locations, and that there is a shortage of Pharmacy Technicians.

The industry guests were in agreement that the program should try to partner with one pharmacy chain or work with independent and specialty pharmacies for students to complete their practicum.

Arturo Dominguez will look into whether CVS offers a program to train technicians. Shadi will find out if Community Memorial Hospital will train technicians.