



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
PROFESSIONALS

SCOPE^{newsletter}
SPECIAL EDITION - FEBRUARY 2018



Pharmacy Technicians

New Deadlines for Pharmacy Assistants and Pharmacy Technician Program Graduates

The purpose of this pharmacy technician special edition of the SCOPE newsletter is to update pharmacy assistants and members on the deadlines for pharmacy technician registration. The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) Council recently determined the final deadlines affecting individuals seeking to become regulated as pharmacy technicians in Saskatchewan.

In Summary

By December 2018, the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Evaluating Examination and the National Pharmacy Technician Education Bridging Program offered through Selkirk College must be completed.

By December 2019 all candidates must be registered. This means the PEBC Qualifying Examination, the structured practical training, the SCPP Jurisprudence exam must be completed, and all application forms and fees due to SCPP must be paid.

After December 2019, the only pathway to register as a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan will be to graduate from a Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) approved educational program.

Protection of Title

The College would like to remind members that as per The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act,

"22(2) No person other than a licensed pharmacy technician shall use the title 'pharmacy technician' or any word or designation, abbreviated or otherwise, to imply that the person is a licensed pharmacy technician."

Frequently Asked Questions

The May 2015 [Frequently Asked Questions for Pharmacy Technicians](#) is another resource if you have questions about the registration process beyond this special edition.

Two Pathways for Registration

Until December 31, 2019, there are two pathways for individuals who wish to become pharmacy technicians in Saskatchewan. As stated previously, after 2019, the only pathway to registration as a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan will be graduation from a CCAPP-approved educational program.

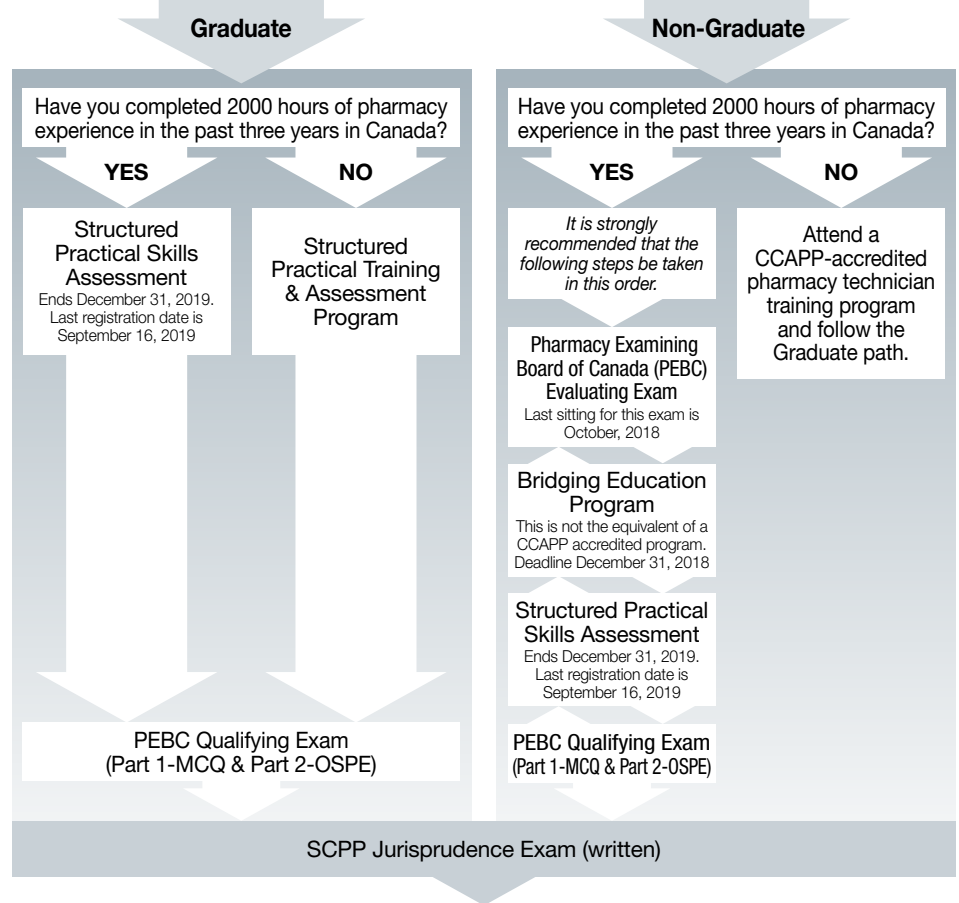
Graduate Pathway: This pathway is for individuals who have graduated from a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program.

Non-Graduate Pathway: This pathway includes pharmacy assistants who have worked completed 2000 hours of pharmacy experience in the past three years in Canada.

The PEBC website defines [acceptable pharmacy practice activities](#).

Pharmacy Technicians

Are you a graduate of a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician training program?



CONGRATULATIONS!

Upon successfully completing your exams, you may now submit your application for registration, membership and licensure with SCPP (must provide evidence of malpractice insurance)

Deadlines for Graduate Pathway

Students of a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program will continue to follow the instruction given in the [Registration & Membership \(Licensing\) Guidelines for Pharmacy Technician Graduates](#).

One Year Time Limit for Registration

Part D of the Regulatory Bylaws states:

Pharmacy Technician Training Program Graduates

3 (e) ...application for registration as a member must be made within one year after the applicant has graduated. Under extenuating circumstances Council may extend this time limit according to the terms and conditions prescribed by Council.

For pharmacy technician students registered with SCPP as Interns, it is a requirement to complete the registration requirements within ONE year from the program graduation date.

Registration Requirements

Registration requirements that need to be completed are:

- Structured Practical Training and Assessment (SPTA) program
- PEBC Qualifying Examination – MCQ and OSPE
- SCPP Jurisprudence Examination

Recommendations

Due to the length of time needed to complete the SPTA (up to 24 weeks), it is important to register with Saskatchewan Polytechnic to begin the SPTA at an approved site soon after graduation. With only two sittings of the PEBC Qualifying Examination per year, it is also suggested to register for the September sitting to allow for a second opportunity to write the exam in April of the following year if needed. Following the successful completion of the SPTA and the PEBC Qualifying Examination, candidates will then be eligible to sit the SCPP Jurisprudence Examination at the College's Regina office.

Deadlines for Non-Graduate Pathway (Bridging)

Council's Decision: On December 14, 2017, the SCPP Council received recommendations from the College's Registration and Licensing Policies Committee for the expiration of the non-CCAPP graduate pathway for pharmacy assistants seeking registration as a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan. Based on the information provided, Council accepted the committee's recommended deadline for registration of pharmacy assistants completing the non-graduate pathway (bridging) to be December 31, 2019.

The current deadline for the PEBC Evaluating Exam and the National Pharmacy Technician Education Bridging Program is December 31, 2018. This allows one year for completion of the remaining requirements: PEBC Qualifying Examination, structured practical training and the SCPP Jurisprudence Examination.

After 2019, the only pathway to registration as a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan will be graduation from a CCAPP-approved educational program. **Anyone interested in pursuing the Non-Graduate pathway is urged to contact the SCPP office as soon as possible.**

Council's decision means that:

1. **By December 31, 2018**, all pharmacy technician candidates in Saskatchewan who want to become registered as a pharmacy technician through the bridging pathway must have successfully completed the
 - PEBC Evaluating Exam, and
 - the National Pharmacy Technician Education Bridging Program (offered through Selkirk College).
2. **By December 31, 2019**, all pharmacy technician candidates in Saskatchewan who want to become registered as a pharmacy technician through the bridging pathway must have also successfully completed the:
 - PEBC Qualifying Examination,
 - Structured Practical Training,
 - SCPP Jurisprudence Examination, and the
 - SCPP registration process by completing the required forms and paying all of the prescribed fees.

IMPORTANT: If any part of either deadline is not met by the respective deadline, the only pathway to registration as a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan will be to graduate from a CCAPP-approved educational program.

PEBC Deadlines and Examination Eligibility

All questions regarding certification with PEBC can be directed to the [PEBC office](#). The PEBC website has detailed information about application procedures, examination locations, costs and what to expect when sitting an examination.

Saskatchewan pharmacy assistants have just TWO opportunities left to sit the PEBC Evaluating Examination (you must have met the application deadline to sit the April 29 exam). Non-graduate (bridging) candidates **must** have successfully passed the PEBC Evaluating Examination by December 31, 2018. October 13, 2018 is the last opportunity to fulfill the SPCPP deadline requirement.

PEBC Pharmacy Technician Schedule of Evaluating Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
Spring Evaluating Examination	April 29, 2018	Registration Closed
Fall Evaluating Examination	Oct. 13, 2018	June 22, 2018

*Applications must be RECEIVED by the PEBC office no later than the application deadline date

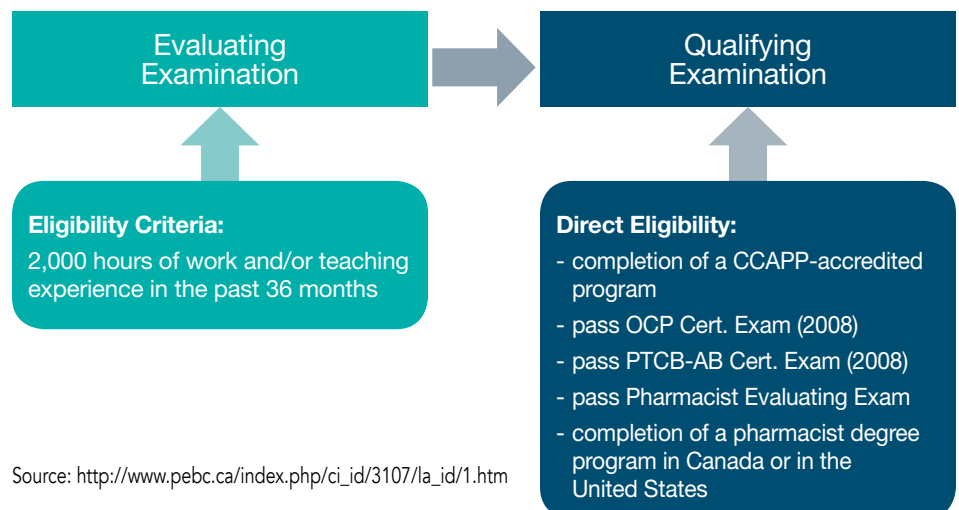
Unsuccessful Candidates

Pharmacy assistants who wish to be registered as a pharmacy technician, but do not pass the PEBC Evaluating Examination prior to December 31, 2018, will be required to complete a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program to become a pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan. Please visit the [CCAPP website](#) for more information on accredited pharmacy technician programs.

Eligibility for the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination

The following diagram outlines the eligibility criteria for **direct** entry into the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination, and the eligibility criteria for **indirect** entry into the Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination through the Evaluating Examination.

PEBC Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination Eligibility Criteria



Source: http://www.pebc.ca/index.php/ci_id/3107/la_id/1.htm

Pharmacy Technician Schedule of Qualifying Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline*
Winter Qualifying Examination	OSPE: April 7, 2018 MCQ: April 8, 2018	Registration Closed
Summer Qualifying Examination	MCQ: Sept. 8, 2018 OSPE: Sept. 9, 2018	June 8, 2018

*Applications must be RECEIVED by the PEBC office no later than the application deadline date.

Please check the [PEBC website](#) for future examination sitting opportunities.

NAPRA National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program

In addition to completing the PEBC Evaluating Examination, pharmacy assistants who did not graduate from a CCAPP-accredited program must complete the NAPRA National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program.

For individuals who were working as pharmacy assistants before regulation was introduced, the National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program enables them to upgrade their skills to align with changes in the scope of practice of pharmacy technicians without having to return to school to complete a full-time training program. Please visit the [NAPRA website](#) for more information.

[Selkirk College](#) in British Columbia offers an online program that fulfills this education requirement. The program includes the following four modules:

- [Professional Practice](#) (39 Hours)
- [Product Preparation](#) (33 hours)
- [Pharmacology](#) (33 hours)
- [Management of Drug Distribution Systems](#) (39 hours)

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) Educational Credit

Pharmacy assistants may be able to demonstrate the necessary competencies addressed in one or more of the Bridging courses. As a result, a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Challenge Examination process is in place to enable candidates to earn educational credit for what they already know. Note: only three of the four Bridging Program courses are PLAR-eligible. The Professional Practice course is mandatory for all participants.

There is only one opportunity to obtain PLAR for each module; there are no re-examinations to obtain PLAR. For more information and how to apply, please visit the [Selkirk College website](#).

A pharmacy assistant must complete (or PLAR) all of the Selkirk College courses by December 31, 2018, to be eligible to continuing working on requirements with a deadline of December 31, 2019.

Structured Practical Training

In 1998, NAPRA's National Licensing Standards Committee (NLSC) identified competency elements that are optimally assessed through a structured practical training program. It was noted that particular competencies require observation of performance to determine the ability of the candidate that such observations should be conducted over a period of time to ensure that performance can be sustained. (For Pharmacy Technicians, SCPP uses the model from [A Framework for Assessing Canadian Pharmacists' Competencies at Entry-to-Practice through Structured Practical Training Programs](#)).

1. Structured Practical Skills Assessment (SPSA) program is for candidates who have not graduated from a CCAPP-accredited program (non-graduate [bridging] pathway).

The Structured Practical Skills Assessment (SPSA) is designed as an assessment of the applicant's basic competencies in a direct patient care practice setting approved by the Council. Candidates have had previous experience in a pharmacy setting and now will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical setting through completion of various activities that fall within the pharmacy technician's scope of practice. The activities are designed to address specific competencies as set forth in the *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice* developed by the National Association of Pharmacy regulatory Authorities (NAPRA). This assessment is to be completed within 2–12 weeks.

The SPSA may be completed at the candidate's current practice site provided that the workplace provides sufficient opportunity to demonstrate the competencies and is located within Saskatchewan. It may happen that a workplace does not provide such opportunity, which will necessitate the candidate securing an alternative environment to complete the program.

2. Structured Practical Training and Assessment (SPTA) program – CCAPP-accredited program graduates.

The Structured Practical Training and Assessment (SPTA) program features activities to demonstrate the candidate's ability to meet the required professional competencies. This is in addition to any practicums completed as a component of the CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program they have already completed.

Pharmacy technicians are authorized to practice in any pharmacy practice setting. As such, the candidate for registration must demonstrate the ability to meet all the competencies regardless of their preferred practice environment.

The SPTA was developed in response to requirements for registration and licensure with SCPP. The program encompasses the nine NAPRA competencies. Immersion in the SPTA facilitates the candidate's transition from a didactic learner to a competent healthcare professional. During the course of this program, the candidate is expected to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that are important to the profession. With exposure to each of the NAPRA competencies, the SPTA program offers the candidate multiple opportunities to perform activities based on their scope of practice.

The candidate will secure a placement in a community, hospital or community/hospital setting with a Saskatchewan Polytechnic approved preceptor and location provided that the workplace provides sufficient opportunity to demonstrate the competencies. It may happen that a workplace does not provide such opportunity, which will necessitate the candidate securing an alternative environment to complete the program.

SCPP Jurisprudence Examination

From the NAPRA document, [Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice \(2014\)](#):

Competency Category

1. Ethical, legal and professional responsibilities

Pharmacy technicians practice within legal requirements, demonstrate professionalism and uphold professional standards of practice, codes of ethics and policies.

The pharmacy technician candidate must successfully complete the SCPP Jurisprudence Examination on the legislation governing the practice of pharmacy in this province. Examinations are held at the College office in Regina by scheduled appointment. The sitting for this computer-based examination is not open book.

Examination topics to be responsible for include:

- Both Federal and Provincial pharmacy legislation
- The Health Information Protection Act (HIPA)
- Reference Manual material
- The Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary (Preface and Appendices).

SCPP Reference Manual documents and Legislation (Bylaws and *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*) are available on the [SCPP website](#). The outline of materials to study is available by request or by accessing the [Study Guide link](#) under the website registration tab. **Note:** candidates are responsible for ensuring they are studying from the most recent version of the guide. Please verify on the website.

The Examination has a two-hour time limit and is camera monitored for security purposes.

Other Requirements for Registration and Licensure

In addition to the educational requirements, all candidates for registration must also meet the following requirements to become a member of the College:

A. Language Proficiency Requirements

SCPP Council has determined the fluency requirement to be proficiency in the English language as described by NAPRA (National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities) in their document entitled, *“Language Fluency Requirements for Licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in Canada.”*

Excerpt:

“Language proficiency is an essential skill required of all pharmacy technicians in the day to day practice of pharmacy in Canada. Although language proficiency does not guarantee that effective communication will take place, it is the foundation for reading, speaking, listening and writing skills – all components of communication. A pharmacy technician’s ability to communicate is critical in the delivery of safe and effective patient care.”

In Saskatchewan, the College has adopted the same principles and triggers for language proficiency of pharmacy technicians as for pharmacists:

Pharmacy Technicians

PRINCIPLES

1. All applicants who have received a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician education will not be required to undergo further testing unless a “trigger” (see below) suggests that a test for language proficiency is necessary.
2. Language proficiency standards are to be applied on entry to practical training. Application at this time (rather than at the point of licensure) supports public protection and enables the candidate to derive the expected educational benefits from the program, while at the same time allows for language proficiency to improve through the program’s emphasis on communication, prior to licensure.
3. Prior language proficiency test results should be accepted by the pharmacy regulatory authority as valid if completed within two years prior to commencement of practical training.

TRIGGERS

Triggers include, but are not limited to:

1. A pharmacist, who has been recognized as a preceptor by a Provincial or Territorial Regulatory Authority, identifies a candidate who has demonstrated less than adequate language proficiency. This perceived inadequacy must be confirmed through an appropriate process approved by the Provincial or Territorial Regulatory Authority.
2. A complaint is received by the pharmacy technician educational program or Provincial or Territorial Regulatory Authority from a customer, patient or health professional about the candidate concerning a lack of language proficiency skills. The alleged deficiency in communication must be confirmed through an appropriate process approved by the provincial or Territorial Regulatory Authority.

To review the English language proficiency standards please view the [NAPRA document](#).

B. Malpractice Insurance

The Regulatory Bylaws for malpractice insurance for pharmacy technicians are similar to that for pharmacists.

Excerpt from Part E of the [Regulatory Bylaws](#)

Malpractice Insurance for Licensed Pharmacists

4(1) In this section:

- (a) “**acceptable malpractice insurance**” means personal insurance that:
- (i) insures a practicing member against liability claims relating to the performance, or alleged performance, of professional services;
 - (ii) provides a limit for each claim of a minimum of two million dollars;

Malpractice insurance is not available through SCPP, nor is it included with the SCPP membership/registration. SCPP will accept coverage that meets the requirements as specified in Regulatory Bylaw 4(1) in its entirety.

C. Canadian Status

Excerpt from Part D of the [Regulatory Bylaws](#)

Registration Requirements

1 Any person who wishes to become a member under this Part must register by meeting the requirements of the Act and the bylaws, or otherwise by meeting the requirements of Council, in a manner or according to the

procedures specified by the Registrar including completing the required forms and payment of the prescribed fee(s). Once registered, the name of the member is entered into the register and remains on the register until removed due to resignation, termination of membership for non-payment of the prescribed fee(s) or a decision of the Discipline Committee. **Any person who wishes to become a member must be a Canadian citizen, or permanent resident or legally entitled to work in Canada.**

(emphasis is the writer's)

Glossary of Terms

CCAPP	Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs
MCQ	Multiple Choice Question
MSOPPT	Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians
NAPRA	National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
OSPE	Objective Structured Performance Examination
PEBC	Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada
PLAR	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
SCOPE	Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals e-Newsletter
SCPP	Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
SPSA	Structured Practical Skills Assessment
SPTA	Structured Practical Training and Assessment

Contact

If you have questions about any of the deadlines or how they may apply to your situation, please contact Brittany Sharkey at SCPPRegistration.PHARMTECH@saskpharm.ca.