

8.21.14 – Pharmacy Technician Breakout

Present: Tiffany Poetsch (AZ Pharmacy Board), Paul Riffenburg (Arizona College Instructor/Pharm Tech), and Speranta Klees (West-MEC)

Curriculum

No comments. Advisory members are reviewing standards and instructional resource list.

Information Sheet

Advisory group recommends that the ideal student should be mature, motivated and skilled in Math (Algebra), Biology and Chemistry at minimum. Students will most likely work in retail settings so good customer service skills, communication skills, multi-task ability, fast-paced environment. The certification test (PTCB) is rigorous and grading should be at 70% min for passing to align with cert. requirements.

Equipment

Advisory was impressed with facilities and equipment. See attached Excel list of recommendations. After looking at the Equipment List from ADE, the advisory members felt that “compounding pharmacy” needs were not addressed (ex. I V supplies, laminar flow hood, digital scales, beakers, mortars/pestles etc.) Advisory Members walked the facility and advised that 1 large cabinet be removed from the center of the floor (it is not attached) so that the flow hood can be installed instead for compounding. Compounding is an essential skill for certification and for hospital pharm work. They also recommended that at least 2 phones be installed so students can practice communication skills needed in a retail pharm setting, along with a cash register on the counter.

Externship

Advisory recommended the program consider a 1 month 160 hours of externship the summer after HS graduation. While not required, the externship would give students some job experience which would be a huge edge in hiring. Students must be 18 yrs. of age to extern.

Job Outlook

Strong demand. Due to Arizona’s “snow-bird” population numbers, students can expect stronger employment in the fall/winter months.

Future Programs

Did not discuss.

