GETTING STARTED

1. Visit the online SPT portal
Learn more about the SPT program and access the online SPT portal at pharmacists.ab.ca/SPT. Pharmacists interested in precepting can log into the portal with their ACP registration number and password.

2. Review rules, requirements, and eligibility info
Review the rules, requirements, and eligibility information on the portal Home page to ensure that you are eligible to precept the intern.

3. Provide registration and license numbers
Provide your ACP registration number and practice site license number to the intern. They will enter this information into their Profile page, which will verify your eligibility and send you a precepting request in the portal.

4. Log into portal and accept precepting request
Log into the online SPT portal using your ACP registration number and password and click on the intern’s name on the Home page to accept the intern’s request and begin the SPT program.

HOME
You can find program information on the Home page, along with a list of your interns. Click the intern’s name to accept your role as their preceptor, and to access the intern’s profile and activities.

INTERN’S PROFILE
You can complete assessments of the intern and declare level completion on the intern’s Profile page.

INTERN’S ACTIVITIES
You can leave comments and notes on the intern’s SPT module activities on the Activities page, and check off when completed to your satisfaction.

To learn more about the program, and to access the SPT portal, visit ACP’s website at pharmacists.ab.ca/SPT
THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY

Share your knowledge and experience with the next generation of pharmacists by becoming a preceptor in the Structured Practical Training (SPT) program. Structured Practical Training (SPT) is the in-pharmacy training period required for registration as a pharmacist in Alberta. The program gives soon-to-be-regulated pharmacists – known as interns – the opportunity, resources, and support to:

- Understand the scope of practice of Alberta pharmacists and the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians;
- Apply their professional knowledge and skills to a practical setting, and develop and demonstrate entry-to-practice competencies; and
- Identify their areas of strength, areas for improvement, and implement learning plans to improve their practice accordingly.

Interns complete the program under the supervision of qualified clinical pharmacists – known as preceptors – who are essential to the growth of the profession.

WHY BECOME A PRECEPTOR?

- The joy of watching an intern develop.
- The opportunity to learn and be challenged about how therapeutic decisions are made.
- The intellectual stimulus an intern provides to “keep current” with clinical practice guidelines and literature.
- The motivation to perform to the best of your own ability.
- Stimulating interns in areas of interest.
- The opportunity to influence an intern’s career.
- The opportunity to share one’s knowledge and experience.
- The opportunity to “give back” to the profession.
- The increased visibility and recognition by peers.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

COMPETENCY-BASED

The Structured Practical Training program is based on the nine nationally accepted entry-to-practice competencies developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA):

- Communication and education
- Ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities
- Product distribution
- Knowledge and research application
- Patient care
- Intra-and inter-professional collaboration
- Quality and safety
- Health promotion
- Practice setting

These competencies provide an overview of the significant job-related knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and judgments required for competent performance as a member of the pharmacy profession.

PROGRAM LEVELS

The program is split into three levels. To successfully complete the program, interns must be able to demonstrate these nine competencies, meet or exceed acceptable performance levels, and complete 1000 internship hours or more.

During SPT, interns are required to work between 20-44 hours per week at an eligible licensed community or institutional pharmacy – known as a practice site – under the direct supervision of an eligible preceptor.

EASY, ONLINE ACCESS

The program is paperless and is managed through an online SPT portal. All activities, program rules, instructions, assessments, tools and resources can be accessed on the portal – meaning less time spent on paperwork, and more time with the intern developing and demonstrating essential clinical skills. To learn more about the program, and to access the online SPT portal, visit pharmacists.ab.ca/SPT.

ABOUT PRECEPTING

ELIGIBILITY

Pharmacists registered on the clinical register may be approved to act as a preceptor if they:

- have been a clinical pharmacist on the register for the past 2 years or more
- will take action to understand the principles of the program, and accept the role and responsibilities of a preceptor
- are in good standing
- are not in a close personal relationship with the intern being precepted
- do not have more than two interns under their preceptorship at the same time
- do not precept the same intern for Level II and III

Pharmacies may be approved to act as an SPT practice site if they:

- are a licensed community pharmacy or institutional pharmacy in Alberta
- operate a minimum of 20 hours per week
- are in good standing
- do not host the same intern for Level II and III

Full eligibility information can be found in the program rules, located on the online SPT portal.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Preceptors provide guidance and feedback, supervise the intern during restricted activities, help the intern determine areas of improvement, and ultimately, assess and sign off on the intern’s knowledge, skills, and abilities at each program level.

THINKING OF PRECEPTING?

Preceptors are vital to the success of the program and profession. Other responsibilities to consider include:

- Ensuring you can dedicate the time and direct supervision required for precepting. Preceptors can have up to 2 interns under their preceptorship at one time. Interns require direct supervision at all times.
- Taking time to understand the program’s goals. The SPT program emphasizes the importance of interns mastering the entry-to-practice competencies rather than simply completing a minimum number of hours. Visit theACPwebsite to learn more about the program and to access the SPT portal.
- Understanding the intern’s learning needs and goals. To best help the intern succeed, it is important that you are aware of your intern’s learning needs and goals at the start of his/her training.

LEVEL I

- Communication and education
- Ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities
- Product distribution
- Knowledge and research application
- Patient care

LEVEL II

- Communication and education
- Ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities
- Product distribution
- Knowledge and research application
- Patient care

LEVEL III

- Communication and education
- Ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities
- Product distribution
- Knowledge and research application
- Patient care

All competencies assessed
Demonstration of readiness to practice

Competencies to develop and demonstrate to preceptor

- Communication and education
- Ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities
- Product distribution
- Knowledge and research application
- Patient care

Hours*

LEVEL I

450 +

LEVEL II

450 +

LEVEL III

100 +

*Additional hours are often required to demonstrate all competencies. The preceptor will determine when competencies have been met.