



INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PHARMACIST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Structured Practical Training (SPT) Program

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Goals

This Structured Practical Training (SPT) program is intended to help you understand and meet the standards of practice for pharmacy as outlined in the [Framework of Professional Practice](#). It describes the standards of practice in the following five areas:

- Role 1: Provide pharmaceutical care
- Role 2: Produce and distribute drug preparations and products
- Role 3: Contribute to the effective operation of the pharmacy
- Role 4: Maintain professional development and contribute to the professional development of others
- Role 5: Contribute to the effectiveness of the health care system

Program management

- The College has partnered with the Office of Experiential Education (OEE) at UBC to administer the SPT program.
- Once your SPT application is accepted by the College, it is forwarded to OEE who will organize all aspects of the program. A full information package, including a site/preceptor selection and approval form, will be sent to you via email.
- Once you have completed the SPT, OEE will inform the College directly.

Application Process

1. Before submitting the SPT application, you must:
 - Be pre-registered with the College of Pharmacists of BC
 - Have authorization to work in Canada (ie. Canadian citizenship, Canadian permanent residence, or work permit)
 - Have successfully met the [English language proficiency requirements](#). Your official English score report must be mailed directly from the testing agency to the College in order to be accepted.
2. Submit the SPT application form and fees to the College office.
 - [SPT application form](#)
 - Application fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Applicants must begin the SPT program within 6 months of their application date, otherwise applicants are required to re-apply and re-pay the SPT fee.
 - Note: If you do not have experience as a registered pharmacist in Canada or the U.S., you do not have to complete the “Employment Certification” page of the SPT application form.
3. The College reviews your SPT application and informs OEE to begin the SPT process.



4. OEE emails you a full information package, including the site/preceptor selection and approval form.
5. You are responsible for finding your own SPT site. You may want to prepare an updated resume and a cover letter for this purpose. Refer to the College website for lists of pharmacies.
 - [Community pharmacies](#)
 - [Hospital pharmacies](#)
6. Once OEE confirms the availability of the site, they will email you a confirmation, an electronic copy of your training materials, and an electronic manual to you and the preceptor.

Who to contact

- For questions regarding pharmacist registration and applying for the SPT program, contact the College office.
- For all other SPT questions, refer to the FAQs below. If further clarification is needed, contact OEE at phar.oe@ubc.ca.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Can you assist me in finding a site to do my Structured Practical Training (SPT) program?

A: It is your responsibility to find a suitable site. You may contact OEE at phar.oe@ubc.ca if you need guidance.

Q: How long is the SPT Program?

A: For an applicant who has never worked as a registered pharmacist in Canada or the U.S., the required number of hours is 500 (approx. 3 months). OEE cannot reduce the length of your SPT Program.

Q: Can you assist me with getting a work visa?

A: The College and OEE are not qualified to give information on immigration issues. Contact [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) for advice.

Q: How long does it take to find a site?

A: Most people find a site within 3 weeks.

Q: What kind of sites can I go to?

A: You may complete your SPT program at a hospital or a community pharmacy. A list of community and hospital sites can be found on the College website: <https://eservices.bcpharmacists.org/psearch/>

Q: How long will it take before I can begin working at my SPT site?

A: From the time you submit your SPT application to the College, it can take 3-4 weeks before you can begin your training, as OEE requires time to make arrangements with your site and preceptor before you can start. If you have not yet pre-registered with the College you must allow another 3-4 weeks before you can submit your SPT application.



Q: Can I do the SPT program before I have completed the Jurisprudence exam?

A: Yes, you may do SPT program before the Jurisprudence exam so long as you have completed the pre-registration application and met the English language proficiency requirement.

Q: Will I get paid?

A: The College does not hold a position on whether SPT programs are paid or unpaid. You can negotiate this with the pharmacy manager when you find a site.

Q: What happens when I'm finished?

A: Once you have submitted your completed and final documentation to the required standard, OEE will notify the College of your successful completion. If you have completed all other steps for registration and submitted your "Full Pharmacist" application to the College, you will be registered by the College in approximately 5 business days.