



Once a decision is made to become a regulated pharmacy technician current pharmacy assistants and those enrolled in CCAP accredited colleges are asked to make their intentions known to the Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacists by completing and submitting the [Intent to Register as a Pharmacy Technician application](#). Current pharmacy assistants are required to complete the work experience section of the application to show evidence they have completed 2000 hours within the 3 years preceding the application. There is a fee of \$25.00 to submit an Intent to Register as a Pharmacy Technician application. The \$25.00 fee will be deducted from the final fee when the Initial Registration application is submitted.

### Pathway 1- Transition Pathway

#### Step 1 a) PEBC Evaluating Exam

**Prerequisite to writing the PEBC Evaluating Examination:** Assistant must have worked in pharmacy practice for a minimum of 2000 hours within the last 3 year period. Specific duties defined as pharmacy practice are on the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) website ([www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)).

All current assistants seeking licensure will be required to successfully complete the PEBC Evaluating Examination. Exceptions to this requirement would be for those who hold certification from the Ontario College of Pharmacists or the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board of Alberta, or graduation from a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy training program. The exam is meant to help technicians assess their current knowledge level in pharmacy practice. It is a multiple choice exam offered twice per year (April and September) in key locations in the Maritimes, including Halifax, Saint John and Moncton. For further information, visit the PEBC website ([www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)).

#### Step 1 b) Bridging Education Program

**Prerequisite to taking the Bridging Program:** Assistant must have worked a minimum of 2000 hours **direct patient care practice** in Canada in the three year period preceding entering the bridging program. **Direct patient care practice refers to the practice of pharmacy involving the care of individual patients.** You must be sure that you meet the criteria prior to taking the bridging program and if unsure, contact the PEICP for clarification. Pharmacy technician candidates will be asked to provide evidence of meeting this requirement before they can be considered for licensure with the PEICP.

A requirement for licensure for those assistants currently in practice will be the completion of a mandatory bridging program. The bridging program is designed to build upon the knowledge

and skills of those currently practicing and prepare them for their role as regulated health professionals, including the additional responsibilities as described in the NAPRA Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice.

The bridging program is divided into 4 courses – Pharmacology, Management of Drug Distribution Systems, Product Preparation, and Professional Practice. Depending on the province, these courses may be delivered in traditional classroom settings, online, or both. Selkirk College in BC is the online National Bridging Program provider. Visit the Selkirk College website for more information (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca/program/pharmacy-technician-bridging-national-education-program>). Currently, there is no in-class course offerings in PEI. It is important to note that ALL successfully completed bridging program courses, regardless of where taken, will be accepted as meeting the requirements for licensure in PEI.

Students complete all exams online. Each student will set up invigilation services in their hometown based on the Selkirk College Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education proctoring guidelines. For more information, see FAQs posted on the Selkirk College website (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca/program/pharmacy-technician-bridging-national-education-program/faqs>).

The option to challenge the requirement to take a particular course through a process known as Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR) is available for all courses with the exception of the Professional Practice course, which everyone must complete. Delivery of the PLAR exams is centralized through Selkirk College. For those who feel that they already have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities in a particular area, they may demonstrate this by writing a PLAR exam (and in the case of the Product Preparation and Pharmacology Courses, completion of prerequisite exercises prior to applying to write the PLAR exam). Individuals who successfully pass the PLAR challenge exam/requirements will receive credit for taking that particular course. PLAR exams are administered online and the student will be required to organize invigilation services in their location. It is important to note that only one attempt may be made to PLAR a course. If unsuccessful, the pharmacy technician candidate must then take that course. The number of PLAR attempts made by an individual will be closely monitored. Please refer to specific information regarding PLAR on the Selkirk College website (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca/program/pharmacy-technician-bridging-national-education-program/courses-fees/plar>) and on the NAPRA website (<http://napra.ca/pages/bridgingprogram/priorlearningassessment.aspx>).

To review a list of Bridging Program FAQs, please visit the Selkirk College website (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca/program/pharmacy-technician-bridging-national-education-program/faqs>) and the NAPRA website (<http://napra.ca/pages/bridgingprogram/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>).

### Step 2 PEICPPT Jurisprudence Exam (JP)

The requirement to successfully complete a jurisprudence examination is consistent with the registration process for pharmacists and is designed to test knowledge of relevant provincial and federal legislation. This exam is a closed book exam administered by PEICP and is structured the same as the exam for pharmacists. The content of the JP Examination will reflect the most current legislation.

### Step 3. Pharmacy Technician Assessment

This assessment will be carried out in the workplace after successful completion of the bridging program. Pharmacy technician candidates will practice under the supervision of a preceptor who is either a licensed pharmacist or a registered pharmacy technician. Included in this assessment is an evaluation of the competency to perform an independent final check of a prescription. This activity is critical to the pharmacy technician role and in order to demonstrate competency, the individual will be required to accurately check 500 consecutive prescriptions over a minimum of two weeks. Additionally, the technician candidate will be evaluated on communication skills and ability to perform communication-related tasks (e.g. receive verbal transfer prescriptions in and out, etc.). Supporting documentation will be required to be completed and submitted

**Prior to commencing the Pharmacy Technician Assessment, the pharmacy technician candidate will be required to do the following:**

- (1) Successfully complete the PEBC Evaluating Exam
- (2) Successfully complete the bridging program
- (3) [Meet language proficiency requirements](#)
- (4) Register a student with the PEICP
- (5) Identify a preceptor and site where the assessment will be completed (can be applicant's own place of employment)
- (6) Complete Pharmacy Technician Assessment application form and submit to the PEICP for approval

**As per the Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Profession Regulation, applicants applying through pathway 1-Transition pathway will be required to complete their registration process by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**

## Pathway 2- CCAPP Accredited Program Graduates- Initial Steps

### Step 1. Graduate from a CCAPP Accredited Educational Program

An accredited program is a program of study offered by either a public or private post-secondary institution that has met the accreditation standards for a regulated pharmacy technician training program or a degree program in pharmacy established by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). For more information, visit the CCAPP website ([www.ccapp-accredit.ca](http://www.ccapp-accredit.ca)).

The accreditation process ensures that programs contain the necessary content to address the competencies required for successful graduates to safely and effectively do the job of a regulated pharmacy technician. In the case of pharmacy technician training programs, accreditation standards are based on the educational outcomes as defined by the Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association (CPTTEA). These educational outcomes are based on the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Competencies for Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice. CCAPP-accredited programs are a minimum of 34 weeks duration and include 8 weeks of practicum experience. There are currently no CCAPP-accredited Pharmacy Technician Programs in PEI.

**It is the responsibility of students to confirm the accreditation status of a pharmacy technician training program and that program's accreditation timeline. This information is readily available on the [CCAPP website](http://www.ccapp-accredit.ca).**

### Step 2. PEICPPT Jurisprudence Exam (JP)

The requirement to successfully complete a jurisprudence examination is consistent with the registration process for pharmacists and is designed to test knowledge of relevant provincial and federal legislation. This exam is a closed book exam administered by PEICP and is structured the same as the exam for pharmacists. The content of the JP Examination will reflect the most current legislation.

### Step 3. Structured Practice Experience (SPE) Program

The purpose of the post-graduate structured practice experience program is to provide soon-to-be-regulated technicians with the opportunity to practice their skill set and demonstrate their competence in a supervised practical environment prior to becoming licensed. This

program is structured such that the technician candidate is assessed according to all nine NAPRA competencies. All activities that make up the Pharmacy Technician Assessment (PTA) Program (for those in the transition pathway) are also included as part of the SPE Program.

**Prior to commencing the Structured Practice Experience Program, the pharmacy technician candidate will be required to do the following:**

- (1) Register as a student with the PEICP
- (2) Complete and submit a preceptor training agreement
- (3) Obtain personal liability insurance
- (4) Meet language proficiency requirements
- (5) Submit a criminal background record check

#### Final Steps for Pathway 1 and Pathway 2

#### Step 4. PEBC Qualifying Exam- Part 1 MCQ and Part 2 OSPE

The PEBC Qualifying Examination (QE) consists of two parts – a written multiple choice question exam (MCQ) and an Objective Structured Performance Exam (OSPE). PEBC currently offers this exam nationally at key locations, including Halifax, twice a year (March and September). Please visit the PEBC website ([www.pebc.ca](http://www.pebc.ca)) for more information.

The prerequisite to sit the QE for those in Pathway 2 is successful completion of a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy or pharmacy technician program.

The prerequisite for those in Pathway 1 (Transition Pathway) is the successful completion of the PEBC Evaluating Examination (or the Ontario College of Pharmacists Technician Certification Exam or Pharmacy Technician Certification Board of Alberta Exam). Note that PEBC does not require individuals to have completed the bridging program in order to take the exam, but both PEBC and the PEICP strongly recommend that a technician first complete the bridging program. The QE is a challenging exam and the knowledge and skills gained through the bridging program would undeniably be of assistance to an exam candidate. Should a candidate choose to take the QE prior to completion of a bridging program and be successful, they would still be required to take the bridging program.

There is nothing to preclude a pharmacy technician candidate from sitting the PEBC Qualifying Exam prior to completion on the Pharmacy Technician Assessment (for those in Pathway 1) or the Structured Practice Experience Program (for those in Pathway 2), however the experience gained from these programs will likely be of benefit in helping to prepare for the Qualifying Examination.

#### Step 5. Registration with the PEICP

After successfully completing all previous steps, individuals will be ready to complete their application for registration and licensing with the PEI College of Pharmacists. The applicant must meet additional requirements for registration, including [language fluency](#), personal liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000.00, criminal background check.