



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

**DATE:** June 2, 2017  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Virginia Board of Pharmacy Examinations Options**

The Virginia Board of Pharmacy (VBOP) will discontinue the Virginia Pharmacy Technician Examination, effective September 1, 2017. Students who have successfully completed a board-approved pharmacy technician training program must choose to take either the [Pharmacy Technicians Certification Board](#) (PTCB) or [Certification of Pharmacy Technicians](#) (ExCPT) examination prior to submitting an application to the VBOP for pharmacy technician registration.

The VBOP will continue to allow students who have successfully completed a board-approved pharmacy technician training program prior to September 1, 2017, to choose the PTCB, ExCPT, or Virginia Pharmacy Technician examination. Information about the current examination registration process is available on the [VBOP](#) website.

All high school pharmacy technician instructors and administrators should participate in the Virginia Department of Education Pharmacy Symposium July 24-26, 2017, at the Virginia Commonwealth University to receive the most current professional development update and additional information on the new examination process. Online [preregistration](#) is required and must be completed by June 15, 2017. For more information, see [Superintendent Memo #158-17](#).

Information will be provided during the Pharmacy Symposium for career and technical education administrators and pharmacy technician instructors to ensure that all programs are in compliance with the new regulation that allows the VBOP to have one or more exams (other than the PTCB) for licensing a pharmacy technician:

[18VAC110-20-103](#) Examination.

- A. The board shall approve one or more examinations to test entry-level competency for pharmacy technicians. In order to be approved, a competency examination shall be developed in accordance with and meet the recognized acceptable test measurement standards of the Joint Technical Standards for Education and Psychological Testing (American Psychological Association, current edition), and shall be administered by an independent third party.
- B. The board may contract with an examination service for the development and administration of a competency examination.
- C. The board shall determine the minimum passing standard on the competency examination.
- D. Any requests for testing accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act shall be in accordance with the provisions of [18VAC1110-20-60.F](#).

If you have any questions regarding the licensure examination process, please contact Patricia Mason or Beth O'Halloran at [pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov). If you have any questions regarding the curriculum or industry credential, please contact Michele R. Green-Wright, Specialist for Health and Medical Sciences and Related Clusters, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at [cte@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:cte@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3119.

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