Preceptor ~ Internship Program

- RCW 18.64.005(3) Establishes qualifications for licensure of pharmacists or pharmacy interns.
- RCW 18.64.080(4) To assure adequate practical instruction, pharmacy internship experience shall be obtained after registration as an intern by practice in a pharmacy or other program approved by the board.

Intern Registration Requirements

To qualify for registration as an intern, applicants must submit:
- A completed application;
- Photograph;
- Registration fee of $20.00.

Intern registrations are renewed annually on date of birth.

Intern Registration Requirements – Background checks

- The Department of Health performs a Washington State Patrol background check on all applicants. If an applicant has been charged with or convicted of a crime, this must be disclosed on the application. Applicant must also provide certified copies of court documents.
- The Board will review the information and determine if the applicant qualifies for licensure.
- Registrations could be denied if the applicant fails to report a criminal background.
Preceptor ~ Internship Program

- WAC 246-858-020 General requirements for interns. The Board of Pharmacy establishes 1500 hours for the internship requirement.
  - 1200 hours of experiential classes as part of the curriculum of an accredited college of pharmacy or school of pharmacy. Commonly referred to as externship/clerkship.
  - 300 hours for experience gained after completing the first quarter/semester of pharmacy education.
  - Must have 700 intern hours on file to take the NAPLEX and MPJE examination.

Internship Notification

- Prior to beginning an internship at a pharmacy, interns must submit to the Board an Internship Site and Preceptor Notification form.
- It is important that this form be submitted to assure that the intern is practicing under a registered preceptor.
- There have been multiple occasions where interns have not submitted the form to find out at the completion of their internship experience that the preceptor is not registered with the Board. The board will only accept hours earned under a preceptor.

Intern Site Evaluation

- At the conclusion of the intern experience, an Intern Site Evaluation Report must be submitted by the intern.
- The Intern Site Evaluation Report provides an opportunity for the intern to evaluate his or her preceptor and the quality of the internship program.
Preceptor Qualifications

WAC 246-858-060 Requirements for Preceptors:
- Licensed pharmacist practicing in a Class A Pharmacy in Washington State.
- Complete a Board-approved training program.
- Twelve months experience as a licensed pharmacist.
- Pharmacists who have been found guilty of a drug or narcotic violation or whose license has been revoked, suspended, or placed on probation are not eligible for certification until completion of probationary period and showing of good cause.

Preceptor Qualifications Cont.

- To receive a preceptor certificate, interested persons must:
  - Complete a Board-approved training program.
  - Submit an application;
  - Take and pass a written examination.

Preceptor certificates are renewed every five years.

Preceptor Qualifications Cont.

- The preceptor is responsible for quality of internship program.
- Board can withdraw a preceptor’s certificate upon proof that the preceptor failed to meet or maintain requirements.
- Board may approve alternative qualifications for preceptors in special internship programs.

Preceptor Training Program

- In 1991, the Board mandated that all preceptors participate in a board-approved training program.
- The Board of Pharmacy training program was developed by the Board and the two pharmacy schools in Washington State.
- The goal of the program is to provide preceptors with the tools necessary to design a quality experiential learning for the pharmacy student or technician.
Preceptor Training Cont.

Training Program Outcomes:
- Differentiate between experiential and didactic learning;
- Design an experiential learning plan that contains a clear learning goal, learning objectives, and learning activities;
- Implement the learning plan, identify and analyze problems that occur and modify the plan to address those problems;

Preceptor Training Cont.

- Describe characteristics of an excellent teacher; identify the characteristics that the preceptor possesses and behaviors that could be modified to make the preceptor more effective.
- Role model for students quality practice activities that emphasize patient care and reduce medication errors.
- Apply good communication techniques.
- Answer the most frequently asked questions relating to legal issues in precepting.

Preceptor Evaluation of Intern

- At the conclusion of the intern’s experience the preceptor shall submit a report to the Board describing the type of professional experience gained under the preceptor’s supervision;
- An evaluation of the intern’s ability to practice pharmacy at that stage of internship.