

Chapter 2

Membership Eligibility, Dues, Chapters, & Benefits

"Furious activity is no substitute for understanding."

H. H. Williams

Before you start to recruit members, be certain you know who is eligible for student membership, details regarding APhA-ASP dues, the benefits of student membership, and membership in APhA after graduation. In addition, familiarize yourself with APhA and APhA-ASP history as well as answers to the "Commonly Asked Questions," (Appendices).

Membership Eligibility-Who Can Join?

Student Pharmacist Member of APhA – To be eligible for APhA membership, a student must be regularly enrolled in either a pre-pharmacy or a professional pharmacy practice degree program in a university or college holding membership in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) or accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE).

Pre-pharmacy students attending a school that is NOT affiliated with a school or college of pharmacy are ineligible for APhA membership. Although APhA appreciates their interest, these individuals should be advised that they will be eligible for membership when regularly enrolled in a college of pharmacy as indicated above. However, pre-pharmacy students attending a school that IS affiliated with a school or college of pharmacy ARE eligible for APhA membership. Ideas for promoting membership to these students are presented in Chapter 4.

Note also that those enrolled in post-BS PharmD programs are not eligible for APhA-ASP membership because they can join as pharmacist members of APhA.

National, Chapter, and State Association Dues

The APhA ASP membership year is November 1 through October 31. However, it is important for students to join or renew before November 1, so that their membership benefits will begin as soon as possible.

Annual national dues are \$45 for student members. The dues for a Dual Year Student Pharmacist membership is \$115 for two years (last year as student, first year as new practitioner). In order to be considered a student member, you must be enrolled in an accredited school or college of pharmacy in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico).

Many chapters also include chapter dues, which fund chapter activities. Questions about chapter dues are not uncommon, so be prepared to answer. Chapter dues are established by the individual chapters, not by APhA. In addition, these amounts are for the chapter and are not controlled or retained by APhA.

Some chapters collaborate with state pharmacy associations as well. At some chapters, students who want to belong to their state pharmacy association may join that organization at the same time that they join APhA ASP. This joint enrollment opportunity is not required but is offered as a benefit to students and your chapter may choose to collect state pharmacist association dues.

Dues collection is covered in detail in Chapter 5 of this Tool Kit. For now, it is important to know that online dues payment is available and payment can be made for national, chapter, and state association dues; Money collected by APhA for chapter dues will be reimbursed back to the chapter and to the state directly six times per year.

Why Chapters?

Some students may ask why it is not possible to join APhA as a student member without chapter membership or wonder what the chapter has to offer that is not included in APhA membership.

APhA maintains student membership through chapters based at colleges of pharmacy for a number of reasons. Participation in an APhA-ASP chapter helps students learn the professional networking skills and professional unity that are important throughout one's career as a pharmacist.

Many APhA programs are designed for group participation. Projects such as Operation Immunization, Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, Generation Rx, American Pharmacists Month (APhM), Chapter Achievement Awards, and the APhA-ASP House of Delegates are only possible if students work together as a collective voice. Enhancing patient knowledge in your local community and promoting the profession of pharmacy are two of the most important objectives of APhA-ASP. These objectives are best achieved with the support of each chapter.

APhA-ASP chapters also serve as a window into each school or college of pharmacy, which allows APhA to better understand the changing dynamics of the profession. Convincing students to join the chapter and attend meetings can be challenging, but by joining APhA-ASP chapters in numbers, every student pharmacist can benefit.

Student Membership Benefits

Each year, thousands of student pharmacists join APhA because of the Association's unparalleled membership benefits. APhA membership benefits are designed to be accessible to those on campus, off on experientials, or pursuing a variety of career opportunities after graduation, with many APhA resources being available 24/7 on www.pharmacist.com. Some APhA programs take place within the chapter, some are regional (such as APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meetings), others are national, and some are available in print or electronically. When talking with students about APhA membership, remember to consider membership benefits from their point of view, which may depend on where they are in their student careers. APhA membership has something to offer everyone; you just have to know what their interests are.

Leadership and Advocacy

- **Patient Care Opportunities** – APhA-ASP is the leader of innovative patient care programming and gives you a head start on developing your clinical expertise. Master the communication, interpersonal, and patient counseling skills you'll need as a practitioner all while serving your community.
- **Leadership Development** – You can be a leader within your community and your profession by participating in APhA-ASP's leadership development programming. Take your leadership experience to the next and enhance your skills through a number of interactive training sessions, as well as elected and appointed positions from the chapter to the national level.
- **Advocacy** – APhA ASP chapters provide members opportunities to be involved on campus and in the community. Informative meetings, health fairs, socials, patient care projects, fundraisers, elections, membership drives, and community education are just some of the activities in which chapter members can participate.
 - o **Shaping Our Profession** – Students play an active role in shaping APhA policy by submitting proposals for consideration by the APhA ASP House of Delegates. The APhA ASP House of Delegates makes recommendations on vital issues affecting the profession and especially on issues affecting students.
 - o **Influencing National Policy** – APhA monitors legislative activities on matters that affect the future of all APhA ASP members, such as health care reform, provider status for pharmacist, and student financial aid. APhA also represents pharmacy's interests before Congress and federal regulatory agencies.
 - o **Global Reach** – APhA ASP is a full member organization of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). Members of APhA ASP are automatically members of IPSF, giving students the opportunity to participate in the international student exchange programs and attend the IPSF Annual Congress.

Career Development & Networking

- **APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meetings**– The APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meetings (MRMs) are held every fall for each of the eight APhA-ASP regions across the country. The APhA-ASP MRMs are the only meetings in the U.S. designed exclusively for the needs of student pharmacists. MRMs bring together student pharmacists from across the country to provide a forum for discussions of career opportunities, provide valuable networking opportunities, and encourage participation in professional development and educational programs. During MRMs, the APhA-ASP Policy Process begins and the APhA-ASP Regional Officers are elected. See <http://www.pharmacist.com/apha-asp-midyear-regional-meetings-mrms> for additional information.

- **APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition** – The APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition provides APhA ASP members the opportunity to participate in discussions on important pharmacy issues, elect APhA ASP leaders, and enhance their career opportunities while meeting colleagues from across the nation and around the world. APhA2017 will be held March 24th - 27th in San Francisco, CA. See www.aphameeting.org for additional information. The APhA Annual Meeting gives student pharmacists an opportunity to learn from and connect with leaders and innovators in the profession. In addition, there are specific career-oriented programs for students, including leadership development programs and a licensure exam prep program. Student members are entitled to significant discounts on meeting registration.
- **Scholarship Opportunities** – Scholarship and award opportunities created to celebrate student pharmacists' commitment to excellence in education and recognize outstanding service to the profession of pharmacy.
- **Facebook Groups/Twitter** – APhA maintains several groups on Facebook, including one for members generally, an APhA-ASP member group, and groups for each MRM. APhA also has a presence on Twitter. These options are open to members and are, of course, a useful resource for connecting with both student pharmacist and pharmacist members of APhA.

APhA: The Essential Link to Developments in Pharmacy Practice, Medication Use, and Health Care

APhA provides pharmacy's most widely used and respected professional information resources, invaluable to students and practicing pharmacists alike. Student members have 24/7 electronic access to the online versions of many of APhA's publications. Descriptions of selected APhA online and print publications are provided below. See www.pharmacist.com for additional information.

- **Student Pharmacist** – APhA's bimonthly news magazine specifically for student pharmacists, provides news and information that affects readers' daily lives, including: career advice from practicing professionals, practice-setting profiles, student viewpoints on today's hot issues, professionalism tips, political advocacy in action news, tools for improved pharmacist-patient communication, information on technological advances, and the latest from the APhA and APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) chapters. Student Pharmacist is available online and in print.
- **Pharmacy Today** – the pharmacy profession's monthly news magazine, Pharmacy Today provides news about developments in pharmacy practice, medication management and safety, new medications, and legal and regulatory matters affecting pharmacy. Articles are written in an easy-to-read style, making it easy for busy students and pharmacists to stay informed. Pharmacy Today is available online and in print. The online version is available to all students; in addition to online access, print issues of Pharmacy Today can be requested. Contact APhA for more information.

Pharmacy Today also publishes a health-system print edition. The articles in this edition are also available online. In addition, Pharmacy Today includes a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) profile every month, providing readers with profiles of practices that employ unique MTM techniques to effectively serve their patients.

- **APhA DrugInfoLine** – online summaries of recent findings regarding drug therapy, presented in a concise, "quick read" style. DrugInfoLine articles include "key point" and "what you need to know" sections, as well as additional detail and references. APhA members can now have drug news delivered as they like it, when they need it. The new APhA DrugInfoLine is available online on multiple platforms. Visit www.aphadruginfoline.com to monitor the latest drug literature, including an expanded Medication Monitor section that covers FDA actions.
- **Journal of the American Pharmacists Association** – JAPhA is a peer-reviewed journal that includes original research, reviews, experience, and opinion articles that link science with contemporary pharmacy practice to improve patient care. APhA-ASP members have access to the online edition (12 issues/year) of JAPhA.

Discounts on Textbooks and Insurance

- **Discounts on Textbooks and Educational Materials** – With more than 100 resources to choose from, APhA-ASP members receive discounts on the most popular textbooks and references in pharmacy. And ordering from APhA is easy! APhA-ASP members can order online at www.pharmacist.com, or order through APhA's publication sales department at 800-878-0729. Online orders made by APhA-ASP members are automatically tracked and goes toward awards the chapter can earn. Student members can receive discounted shipping on orders made via phone, fax, or mail when the chapter name (or code) is provided.
- **Professional liability coverage** – This policy offers coverage for all curriculum-related activities including rotations and programs to student pharmacists. All APhA-ASP members can purchase liability insurance policies at discounted rates.

One of the most important APhA-ASP membership benefits for 2017 graduates is FREE professional liability insurance. APhA will provide \$1 million/\$3 million dollar coverage at no cost to all 2017 graduates who sign up for membership during the prior year spring membership drive for their last year of pharmacy school and do not currently hold a license to practice pharmacy. For example, students graduating in 2016 must sign up during the spring 2016 drive and be members through October 31, 2017. Coverage is from May 1 – May 1.

Proof of coverage (Certificate of Insurance), will be sent to your Chapter Advisor in May prior to entering your final student year. Students can also contact Healthcare Provider Services Organization (HPSO) Blanket Division at 800-986-4627.

- **Other Insurance Programs** – Affinity Insurance Services, Inc. is the administrator for the APhA endorsed Life, Accident and Health Insurance program. Coverage is only available to APhA members (and their eligible spouses). To learn more or to request a brochure and application call toll-free at 1-800-509-6113.

Dual Year Student – New Practitioner Membership & Benefits

The new Dual Year Membership covers the final year membership as a student pharmacist and the first year of APhA membership as a new practitioner. Available during the Spring and Fall chapter membership drives, the Dual Year Membership helps to bridge the transition from student pharmacist to new practitioner.

By signing up for the Dual Year Membership, student pharmacists entering or in their final year receive additional benefits including:

- 19% discount on student pharmacist and new practitioner dues if purchased separately
- A free copy of *The APhA Complete Review for Pharmacy, 11th edition*, a \$72.95 value, along with the brand new members only *NAPLEX Review Study Guide* that includes; the NABP Blueprint of topics covered on the examination, list of the Top 200 Drugs, and Pharmacy Mnemonics with illustrations! \$10 shipping and handling fee waived for dual-year members during the 2016 Fall APhA Membership Drive.*
- Access to the *NAPLEX Review Questions section of PharmacyLibrary* – student pharmacists who enroll during the Spring drive has access to 300 additional questions while those who enroll during the Fall drive have access to 200 additional questions (final year students who sign up for one year of membership in the Fall have access to 100 additional questions).

Student Membership Benefits: Opportunities for APhA-ASP Members

APhA-ASP membership provides a wealth of opportunities to student pharmacists – from pharmacy school to new practitioner and beyond, there are programs and services to meet every pharmacists' needs!

- APhA-ASP National Patient Care & Community Service Projects
 - o Generation Rx
 - o Operation Diabetes
 - o Operation Heart
 - o Operation Immunization
- Information Resources
 - o Student Pharmacist Magazine
 - o Student Pharmacist Connection

- o Pharmacist.com
- o Pharmacy Today Online
- o Journal of American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA) Online
- o APhA DrugInfoLine Online
- o Shop APhA Online Bookstore
- APhA-ASP International Opportunities
 - o International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Membership
- APhA-ASP Professional Development Programs
 - o National Patient Counseling Competition
 - o PharmFlix Video Contest
 - o Virtual Learning
 - o APhA-ASP/New Practitioner Network Webinar Series
- APhA-ASP Career Development Programs
 - o APhA-ASP Experiential Program
 - o APhA Career Pathway Evaluation Program for Pharmacy Professionals
 - o APhA Career Connection
- APhA-ASP Awards & Scholarships
 - o APhA Linwood F. Tice Friend APhA-ASP Award
 - o APhA-ASP Outstanding Dean Award
 - o APhA-ASP Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award
 - o APhA Student Leadership Awards
 - o APhA Good Government Student Pharmacist Year Award
 - o APhA-ASP Senior Recognition Certificate
 - o APhA Foundation Student Scholarship Program
- APhA-ASP Meetings & Networking
 - o APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition
 - o March 24-27, 2017, San Francisco, CA
 - o APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meetings
 - o October & November Annually
 - o APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute
 - o APhA-ASP Chapter Meetings & Networking
 - o University of Utah School on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies
 - o Social Networking
 - o Facebook – APhA-ASP
 - o Follow us on Twitter – @APhA-ASP
 - o YouTube – APhA-ASP
 - o APhA Academy Membership
 - o APhA-ASP
 - o APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Membership
 - o APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science
- Section Membership
- Leadership Skills

- o APhA-ASP Leadership Training Series (LST)
- o Volunteer Leadership Opportunities
 - o National Positions
 - o Chapter Positions
- Advocate for Your Profession
 - o Pharmacists Provide Care Initiative (provider status recognition)
 - o Advocacy Key Contact
 - o APhA Legislative Action Center
- Final Year Student Benefits
 - o NAPLEX Review Bonuses
 - o Complimentary APhA Complete Review For Pharmacy
 - o Access to Members-Only NAPLEX Questions on PharmacyLibrary.com
 - o Complimentary Liability Insurance (May 1 – May 1 for Spring Drive enrollees only)
 - o Life on Rotation Presentation

After Graduation: New Practitioner Network Member

Pharmacy practitioners in their first five years of practice have different needs than their more seasoned colleagues. Although their pharmacy education has prepared them to be clinically competent, some find that they have little experience with the realities of the working world. Managing personal finances, finding the right employment opportunity, hiring and supervising technical staff, and avoiding burnout are issues common to many new practitioners.

APhA recognizes that new practitioners need information to help ease through the transition from student pharmacist to working professional. The APhA New Practitioner Network provides products, services, and programs to help the Association's new practitioner members make this transition.

APhA membership dues for new practitioner active members who will graduate in 2017 are \$84.00 for the first year. New practitioners pay reduced member dues until four years after graduation.

New practitioner members of APhA can also choose academy affiliation in both the Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management or the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science at no additional charge.