

Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians in Alberta

**Webcast
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Outline

1. History

a) Alberta

b) Outside Alberta

2. Amendment to the *Health Professions Act*

3. Qualifications for registration as a regulated pharmacy technician

4. Transition

Will not include information on duties performed by regulated technicians or standards of practice



Alberta History

- **Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians (CAPT- AB)**
 - **1998 – Established Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB-AB) (later PTeB)**
 - **Voluntary Certification Exam began July 2001**
 - **Over 1000 candidates**
 - 850 people successful, 536 from Alberta
 - 65% retail, 35% hospital
 - 75% college trained, 25% on-the-job trained
 - **2003 – Tech regulation steering committee**
 - **2005 – letter of application to Minister of Health**



Alberta History

- **Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP)**
 - **April 2006**
 - **Consensus decision to support the regulation of pharmacy technicians in Alberta**
 - **September 2006**
 - **Motion to become involved in regulation of technicians**
 - **Pharmacy Technician Regulation Working Group established**
 - Pharmacist and technician representatives
 - Provided advice to the Registrar and Council

Alberta History

– April 2007

- Pharmacists move under HPA
- Pharmacy technician defined:
 - an individual who has successfully completed a pharmacy technician program recognized by the Council and who is registered in the pharmacy technician register provided for in the by-laws



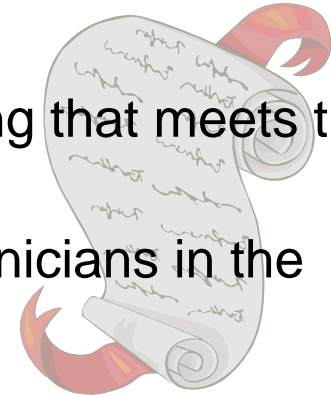
– May 2007

- Criteria for training programs approved by Council

Alberta History

– January 2008

- **Voluntary register established**
 - ID those who have completed training that meets the criteria
 - ID those who are referred to as technicians in the Standards



– Summer 2008

- **2 technician observers appointed to ACP Council**



Outside Alberta

- **Ontario College of Pharmacists**
 - **February 2005**
 - **Permission to present to Health Professions Review Board re: pharmacy technicians**
 - **2006**
 - **Voluntary certification exam**
 - **June 2007**
 - **Ontario legislation passed enabling regulation of pharmacy technicians by OCP**
 - **2010**
 - **Proposed implementation of technician regulation**
 - **2009**
 - **Bridging Program**

Outside Alberta

- **October 2006 – March 2007**
 - **Educational Outcomes for Pharmacy Technician Programs in Canada**
 - **CPTEA (Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association)**
- **September 2007**
 - **Entry to Practice Competencies for Pharmacy Technicians**
 - **NAPRA (National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities)**
- **June 2008**
 - **First group of pharmacy technician training programs accredited**
 - **CCAPP (Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs)**



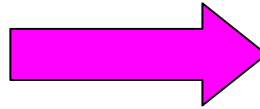
Outside Alberta

- **Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC)** <http://www.pebc.ca/EnglishPages/PharmacyTechnicians/PTHomePage.html>
 - National certification body for the pharmacy profession established in 1963
 - **Currently developing and piloting a national entry to practice Pharmacy Technician Qualification Examination**
 - **Two-part exam**
 - Multiple Choice Question Examination (MCQ)
 - Objective Structured Performance Examination (OSPE)
 - » Performance-based (practical) exam
 - **Pilot – fall 2009 in Ontario**
 - **National roll out – fall 2010**

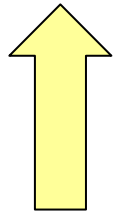


PEBC Exam Criteria

**Pharmacy Technician
Evaluating Exam**
(begin Oct. 3, 2009)



**Pharmacy Technician
Qualifying Exam
MCQ & OSPE**
(pilot 2009, roll out 2010)



Eligibility Criteria:
2000hrs practice in past
36 months in Canada
(examples of activities on
PEBC website)



- Direct Eligibility Criteria:**
- completion of CCAPP accredited program
or
 - pass OCP certification exam (2008)
or
 - pass PTCB-AB certification exam (2007)

alberta college of
pharmacists



HPA Amendment Oct 2008

Pharmacy technicians added to Schedule 19 of HPA

- Allows for the amendment of regulations to include techs as regulated health professionals

- **Protected titles**



- pharmacy technician
- pharmacy technologist
- dispensary technician
- dispensary technologist
- Pharm. Tech.
- Ph.T., R.Ph.T

- **Enactment expected – fall 2010**

HPA Amendment Oct 2008

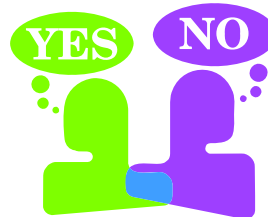
In their practice, pharmacy technicians promote safe and effective drug distribution and, in relation to that, do one or more of the following under the direction of a pharmacist:

- (a) receive, gather, enter and store prescription and patient information;
- (b) store and repackage products;
- (c) participate in the management of systems for drug distribution and inventory control;
- (d) participate in the research, development, implementation and evaluation of quality assurance and risk management policies, procedures and activities;
- (e) provide restricted activities authorized by the regulations;
- (f) instruct patients about the use of health aids and devices, and
- (g) teach the practice of pharmacy technicians.



HPA Amendment Oct 2008

- **Details will be included in the regulations to the act**
 - Definition of “direction of a pharmacist”
 - ID of which restricted activities techs will be authorized to perform
 - Qualifications for registration
- **Standards of Practice will be amended**
- **Consultation**
 - Province-wide consultation required for standards
 - Expected spring 2010



Proposed Qualifications

As per regulations for pharmacists:

1. **A certificate or diploma from a training program approved by Council,**
2. **Successful completion of a structured practical training program, and**
3. **Successful completion of the registration exam and the ethics and jurisprudence exam approved by Council**

Must be completed within the 2 years prior to application

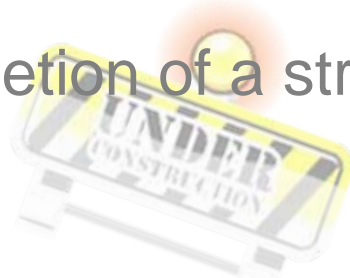
OR

must demonstrate that the applicant is currently competent to practice as a pharmacy technician

- **For this purpose, the Registrar may require an applicant to do one or more of the following:**
 - **successfully complete coursework and examinations**
 - **undergo an evaluation of competencies**
 - **complete an additional structured practical training program**

Proposed Qualifications

1. A certificate or diploma from a training program approved by Council
 - **CCAPP accredited programs**
 - **1st programs accredited June 2008**
 - **NorQuest College**
 - **Feb 2009 second group**
 - **Red Deer College, Bow Valley College, CDI College Edmonton**
2. Successful completion of a structured practical training program
 - **To be developed**
3. Successful completion of the registration exam and the ethics and jurisprudence exam approved by Council
 - **Ethics and JP exam to be developed**
 - **Registration exam**
 - **PEBC Qualifying Exam (MCQ & OSPE)**



Proposed Qualifications

Must demonstrate that the applicant is currently competent to practice

- For this purpose the Registrar may require an applicant to do one or more of the following:
 - successfully complete coursework and examinations
 - undergo an evaluation of competencies
 - complete an additional structured practical training program

Substantial equivalence

- **considered by ACP Council - April 2009**
 - Successful completion of a bridging program;**
 - Successful completion of an ethics and jurisprudence exam; and**
 - Successful completion of registration examination**



Bridging Programs

Four-module program purchased from Ontario (165 hours in total)

1. **Professional Practice** (45 hours)
 2. **Product Preparation** (45 hours)
 3. **Pharmacology** (33 hours)
 4. **Management of Drug Distribution** (42 hours)
- Developed by an association of community colleges in conjunction with tech educators and OCP
 - Alberta tech educators will assist ACP and the Community College Association to incorporate Alberta legislation



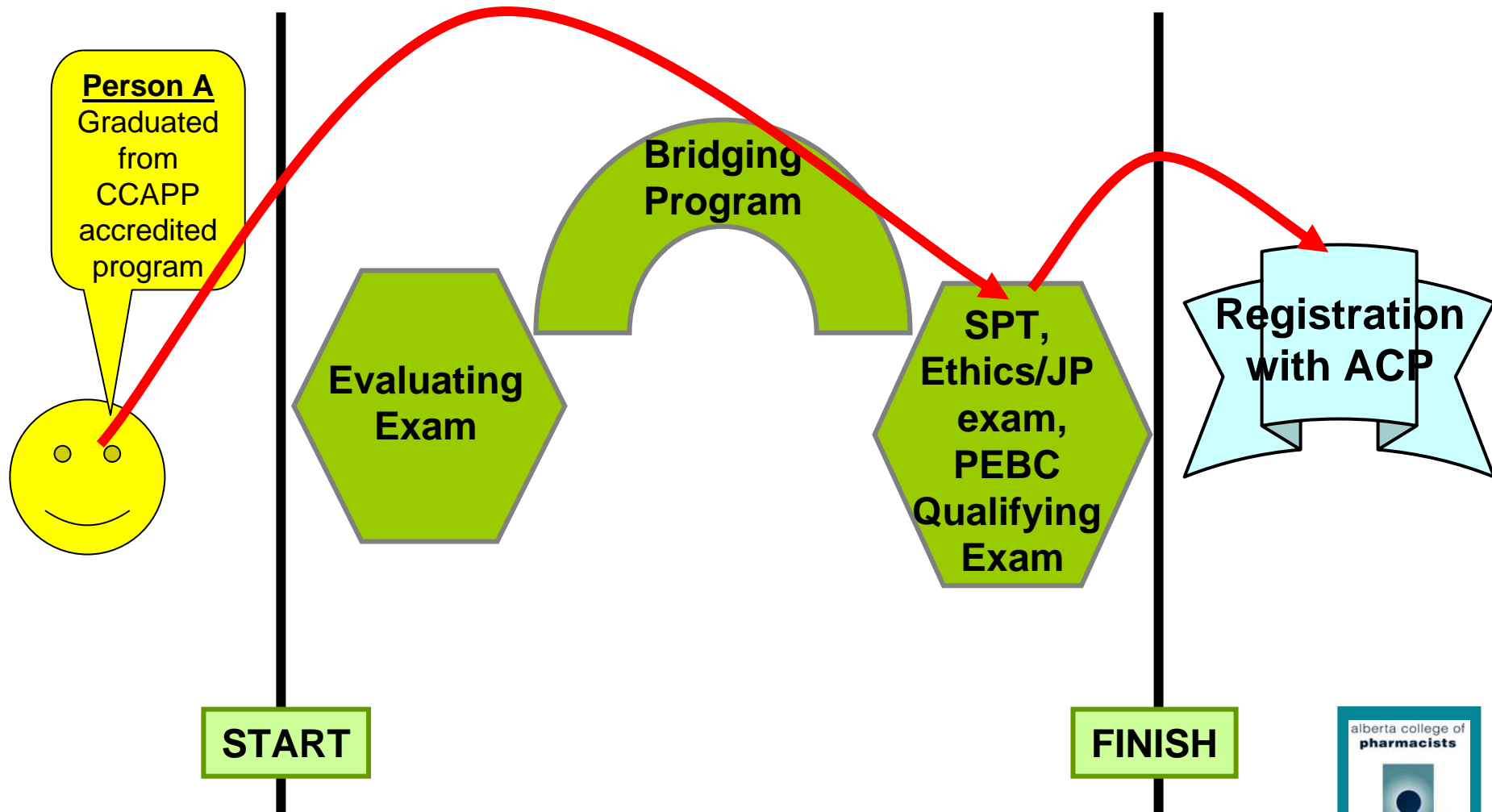
Bridging Programs

- **Program is mandatory for all who have not graduated from a CCAPP accredited program**
- **HOWEVER:**
 - **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**
 - **If you demonstrate that your training and/or experience is equivalent to one or more of the modules you can skip module(s)**
 - **applies to all modules except the Professional Practice module, which is mandatory for everyone**

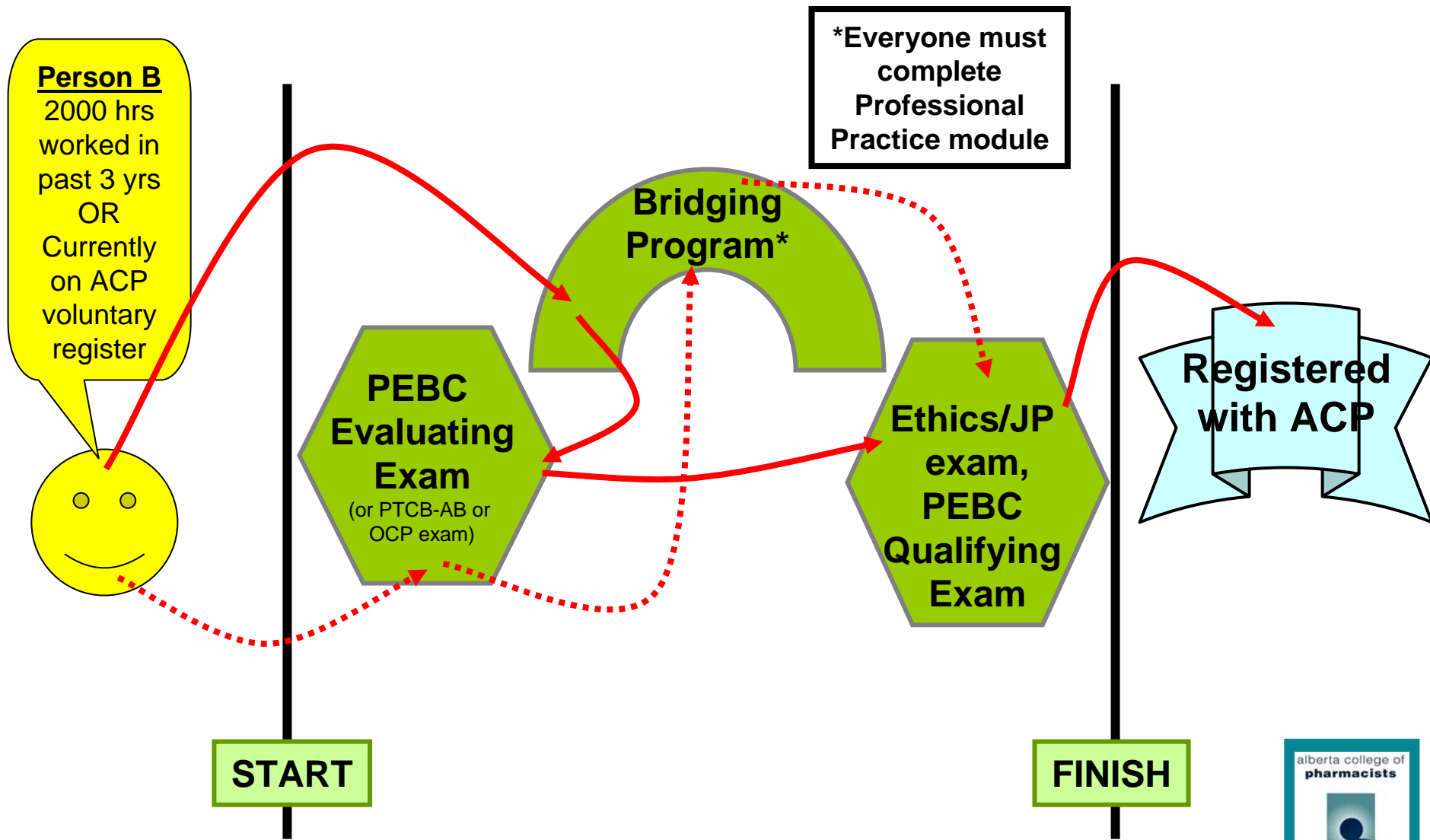


PLAR is part of the curriculum that has been purchased

Process if from Accredited Program



Process if not from Accredited Program



Summary of Bridging Program

Professional Practice (45 hours)

Prepare students for practice in 5 focus areas:

- Legal requirements
- Scope of practice
- Ethical principles
- Professionalism
- Communication skills

Ethics and jurisprudence exam will be embedded at the end of this module

Product Preparation (45 hours)

- A practical lab course that provides theoretical knowledge and practical experience to accurately and safely prepare sterile and non-sterile pharmaceutical products

Pharmacology (33 hours)

- Provides a practical, applied approach to pharmacology

Management of Drug Distribution (42 hours)

- Course examines various drug distribution systems and prepares learners to perform accurate product release and to manage operations in a practice setting

Bridging Programs

Admission criteria for bridging programs

(equivalent to requirements for PEBC evaluating exam)

- Evidence of having worked in the field as a pharmacy technician for at least 2000 hours in the past 36 months;
- OR*
- Successful completion of the PTCB-AB exam or the OCP exam;
- OR*
- Graduation from a CCAPP accredited program



Bridging Programs

Provision of bridging programs in Alberta:

- Publicly funded training programs accredited by CCAPP
 - NorQuest, Red Deer College, Bow Valley College
 - Programs may partner with other institutions to deliver the programs
 - CDI College Edmonton
- Offered online
- Continuing education format
 - evening, weekend, etc.



Transition

Membership on the current register does not automatically qualify a voluntary technician for registration as a regulated technician.

Why ?

- **Responsibilities will increase**
- **National competencies and educational standards have been identified**
 - ACP mandate to protect the public = responsibility to ensure that competencies have been demonstrated prior to granting a practice permit
 - Necessary to meet the same qualifications as other provinces in order to allow mutual recognition



Transition

ACP voluntary registration (membership) will end

- **December 31, 2010**



Provisional register

Created in the regulations for candidates who have completed educational programs but have not yet completed all the other requirements for licensure

- Technicians enrolled in bridging program
- Technicians awaiting results of national exams
- Technicians who were on the voluntary register

Transition

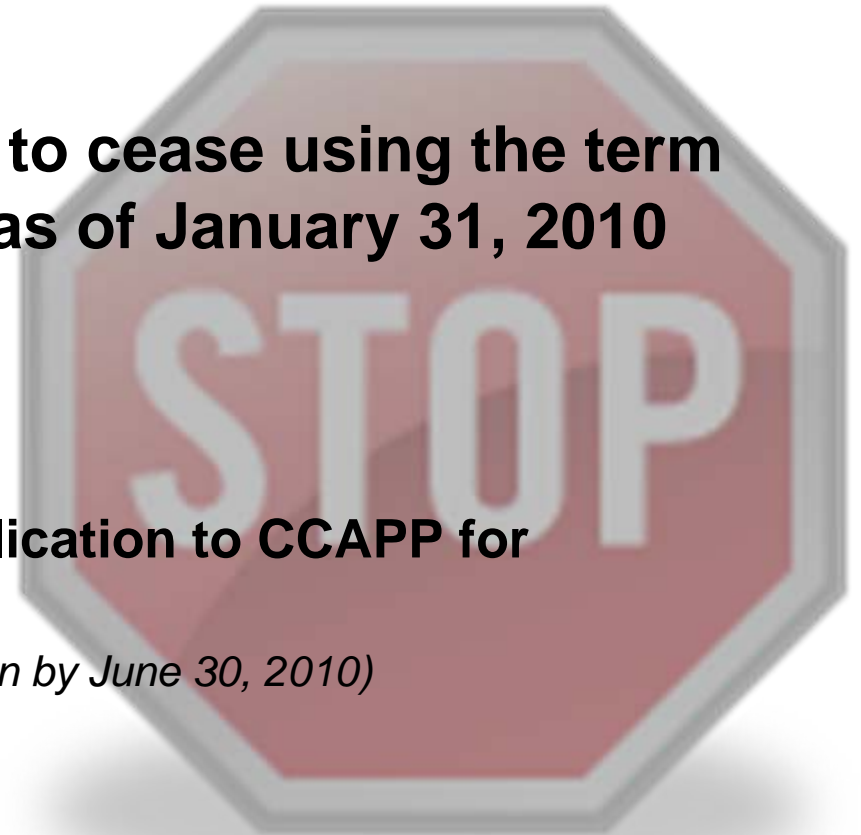
Those who wish to qualify via completion of bridging education are required to do so by Jan 1, 2015



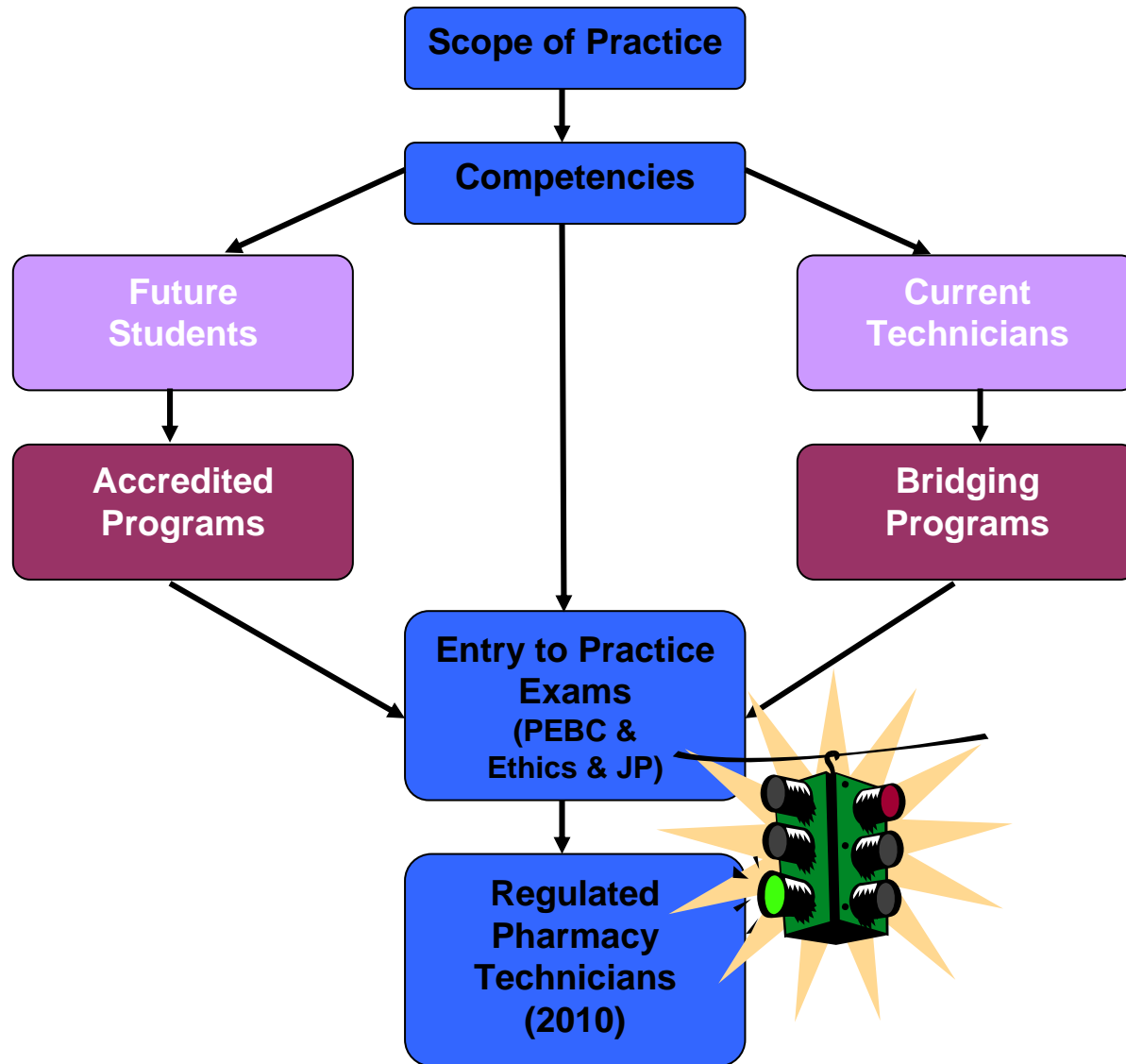
- **Bridging intended only for candidates currently working as technicians**
- **Candidates entering the field now should attend an accredited training program**

Transition

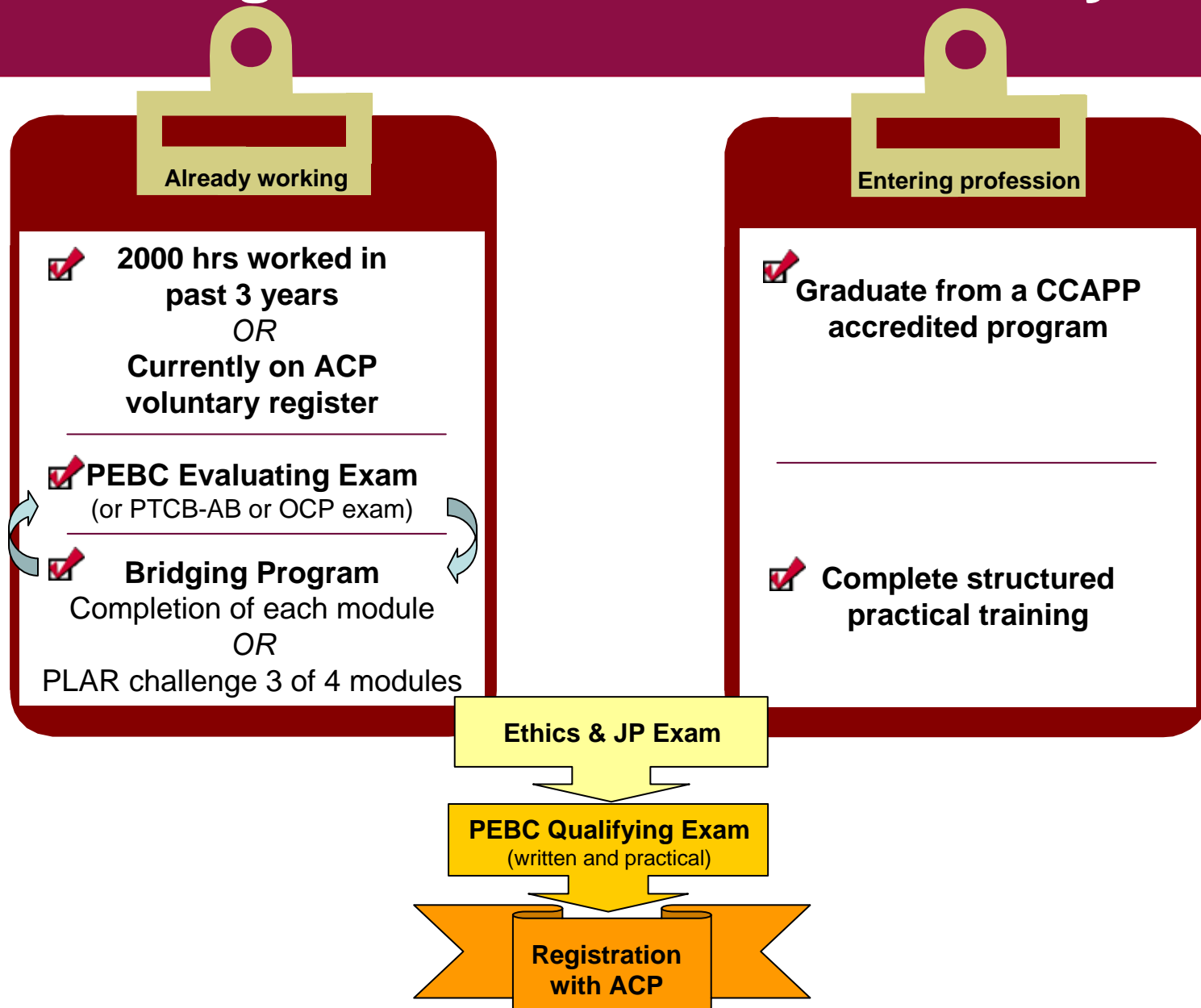
- **Request to Alberta Advanced Education re: Training Programs**
 - **Programs be directed to cease using the term pharmacy technician as of January 31, 2010 unless:**
 - **accredited by CCAPP**
 - or
 - **have submitted an application to CCAPP for accreditation**
 - *(must receive accreditation by June 30, 2010)*



Regulation Process



Regulation Process Summary



Questions ?

Questions may be entered now.

As many as possible will be answered, as part of the session.

The remaining questions will be answered in the FAQ section of the ACP website.

<https://pharmacists.ab.ca>

