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AACP Supports President Obama's Efforts to Fight Prescription Drug Abuse

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy commends President Obama's push to fight opioid abuse, both in terms of access and education. Academic pharmacy has been active in the efforts to educate future pharmacists on substance abuse and dependency for many years, and has engaged experts in the field to develop [curricular guidelines](#) for colleges and schools of pharmacy. AACP also supports continuing education of practicing pharmacists on treatments related to substance abuse.

As the most accessible healthcare provider, pharmacists are uniquely qualified to educate patients on opioid abuse and misuse, as well as access to opioid overdose treatment when needed. Across the country, pharmacy educators and students are teaming up with other healthcare practitioners, universities and community organizations to combat this growing epidemic. At Shenandoah University, a federal grant will allow pharmacy faculty to prepare future healthcare providers to identify patients' behavioral health issues related to substance abuse, and to effectively intervene and refer patients for treatment when needed. St. Louis College of Pharmacy and the Washington University School of Medicine have created a joint research center to find better, safer and more effective ways to use prescription medications to improve health.

Pharmacists are on the front lines of this battle and AACP member institutions are committed to preparing future pharmacists who are ready to join the fight to end substance abuse and dependency. You can read the president's full announcement [here](#).

Related Association Policies

AACP advocates increased continuing education programs that address practitioner needs in the areas of addiction, substance abuse and recovery. (Source: Special Committee on Substance Abuse, 2010)

Pharmaceutical education has the responsibility to prepare students to address the problems of substance abuse and chemical dependency in society. (Source: Academic Affairs Committee, 1991)