

AMCP Foundation National Student Pharmacist P&T Competition

The AMCP Foundation National Student Pharmacist P&T Competition is an excellent opportunity for pharmacy students to work as a team and improve critical thinking, literature review, research, and presentation skills. However, organizing the competition and supporting students along the way can be overwhelming. This guide is aimed at helping AMCP Chapter leaders think about how to recruit participants, prepare them for the competition, and execute a successful local competition.

Key Points

- Market and recruit for the P&T Competition early by emphasizing the value of competing
- Commit to providing your student members with the tools and information necessary to be successful in the competition (what this may look like will depend on the time and resources you have available)
- Give the local competition the attention and fanfare it deserves by making it a big deal at your school!

Step

1

Recruitment

The P&T Competition is one of the most rewarding activities that student pharmacists can engage in. Since it is such a large undertaking, many Chapters struggle with recruiting teams to participate. We recommend introducing students to the P&T Competition during the initial recruitment process as well as holding a P&T information session in September or October. Below are some considerations for Chapter Leaders when recruiting for the P&T Competition:

- **Build Interest in the Competition Early:** For teams to successfully complete the competition, they should have a good understanding of what it entails. They should be prepared to commit many hours over winter break to the competition. The earlier, the better to get students excited and mentally prepared for the competition!
- **Explain the Value of Participating in the Competition:** Students who participate in P&T Competition benefit tremendously by learning skills and knowledge that will make them more marketable for fellowship and residency interviews and prepared to enter the industry. Make sure to share with students the value of competing in the competition, including:
 - Learn project management skills that employers want by working on a longitudinal, complex project with multiple moving parts.
 - Develop a valuable knowledge base in managed care and industry, including critical analysis of comparative effectiveness research, an understanding of the P&T process, an introduction to pharmacoconomics and budget impact modeling, and how to develop a managed care strategy for a new product.
 - Learn how to work effectively on a professional team.
 - Gain experience with formal writing and presentation skills.
- **Don't Scare First Years Away:** Getting first years involved in the competition is very advantageous because these students will be much more competitive in subsequent years. Explain to first years that they will be well-positioned to win later down the road if they give the competition a try; it's even possible to win as a first-year group!
- **Bring in the Veterans:** Many Chapters bring in past student participants as part of a panel session during recruitment so that these competitors can share a firsthand account of why the competition was so valuable for them and share tips on how to be successful.

Step 2

Preparing Competitors

To be successful in the P&T Competition, students will likely require background information and context that they may not be receiving in your school's PharmD curriculum. Make it one of your Chapter goals to help provide your members with some of this knowledge. Know that building resources for the P&T Competition take time (often several years!). This is okay! To keep your Chapter focused on a long-term P&T goal, be sure to keep your younger E-Board members involved and dedicated to the mission. Below you will find a recipe for how you can help your members be successful.

- **Provide Your Members with the Basics:** All Chapters should strive to plan a P&T Competition Info Session. The more information you can provide upfront to members on what to expect in the competition, the faster they can hit the ground running when the case is released. The objectives of this session may include the following:
 - Increase interest among student pharmacists to participate in the P&T Competition
 - Explain what P&T Committees are and what their role is in managed care
 - Describe the AMCP P&T Competition (timeline, expectations, submission components)
- **Equip Participants with P&T Knowledge:** Since the P&T Competition requires a steep learning curve, AMCP Chapters can help educate their members on fundamental concepts that will help them be successful. Since access to faculty or local professionals with managed care expertise may vary widely across Student Chapters, start with what is most reasonable for your Chapter.
 - Topics to Address:
 - Manufacturer Dossiers and the AMCP Format
 - Critiquing Clinical Trials
 - Comparative Effectiveness Research
 - Pharmacoeconomics
 - Managed Care Principles (Formulary and Benefit design, Specialty Pharmacy considerations)
 - Ways that your Chapter can teach this information in increasing order of complexity include:
 - Create a resource document with links to research articles, book chapters, webinars, and/or YouTube videos that can be shared with competitors
 - Design your own lecture series taught by E-Board members, faculty, and local professionals, or even set up a Webex with managed care professionals in your network
 - Make a P&T elective course within your curriculum
- **Additional Competition-Specific Help:** After you have equipped your competitors with the knowledge they need to complete the P&T Competition, consider supporting them by having additional lectures on the actual mechanics of the competition. These may include:
 - How to perform a systematic literature search and use a citation manager
 - Tips on monograph writing or presentation techniques (verbal and visual)
 - Bring in a disease state expert relevant to the P&T Competition case
 - Ask previous competitors to come in and discuss their approach to project management in the competition
- **Watch the Competition!** Last but not least, convince your members to come to AMCP Annual so they can watch the nation's top teams compete. Stow away your observations for next year so you can be sure to have a top-tier submission!

Step 3

Hosting the Local Competition

Finally, it is important to remember to celebrate your local teams that have made it through the rewarding, yet difficult P&T Competition. By making your local competition a big deal, you will help promote the prestige of the competition at your school and increase recruitment in subsequent years. A win-win!

- **Key People:** Your P&T Coordinator and Chapter Advisor will be key to making the local competition a success. If your Chapter doesn't already have one, consider recruiting for a P&T Coordinator role next year.
- **Finding Judges:** If you do not have a strong local managed care network, use the AMCP Member Directory to see if there are any managed care professionals in the area. Speaking with your alumni office to identify alumni in managed care roles and willing to come back and judge is another good way to source judges. Rely on your faculty advisor or AMCP diplomats to help you with this.
- **Make It Official:** In order to make your local competition a big deal, get official! Create an official agenda and share it with the faculty and student body ahead of time. Create plaques or medals to hand out at the awards ceremony for participants. Assign one E-Board member or your faculty advisor to serve as a host. Additionally, consider having a lunch or formal banquet dinner with participants and judges to conclude the competition.
- **Share Your Story:** Be sure to post on social media after the competition is completed. Consider getting your school involved in writing up an article on the competition. If not, write your own and share it on LinkedIn!

Consider this sample timeline for your executive team or competition coordinator to follow when planning the P&T Competition:

Month	Event	Description
Sept - Dec	P&T Information Session	Host an informational explaining the P&T Competition to students to build interest and express the value that the competition will bring to them.
	P&T Workshop Planning	Even though competition material has yet to be released, begin planning for potential workshops and finding potential guest speakers. Example workshop topics can include pharmacoeconomics or a Q&A session with previous competitors.
	Student Chapter Sign-Up	The AMCP Foundation will open registration for pharmacy schools/colleges to confirm participation in the P&T Competition. Be sure to look out for an announcement from the AMCP Foundation during this time!
	P&T Competition Study Drug Release	The competition study drug usually is announced by mid-November. All competing students and local competition judges will need to register for access to the eDossier system at this time.
	P&T Competition Workshops	Hold workshops in November to serve as in-depth information sessions to equip your participants with important clinical and economic knowledge. It may also be helpful to orient students with the eDossier system and ensure all participants are properly registered.
	P&T Local Competition Planning	Begin planning logistics for the local competition including local deadlines, potential judges, and location. Depending on the size of your P&T Competition, an award ceremony may be in the works too!
Jan	Local P&T Competition Presentations	It's finally time to hold the P&T Competition presentations! Coordinate a schedule for the day(s) of presentations. Bring refreshments or lunch as a gift of appreciation for your judges. Once winners are decided, your first-place team should submit an entry to the National P&T Competition by the stated deadline.
Feb - April	P&T Finalists Announcement	AMCP will announce finalist and honorable mention semi-finalist teams for the national competition in February or March. Finalists compete in the live finals at the AMCP Annual Meeting. Stay posted for the announcement!
	AMCP Foundation Annual National P&T Competition	The live finals are held on one day of the AMCP Annual Meeting in March or April. Support your team if they make it to the finals!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Refer to the official AMCP timeline released by the Foundation for all official deadlines for the P&T Competition. Deadlines may vary with each year.

Additional AMCP Foundation Resources

- [2024 P&T Competition Top Teams](#) – Here we recognize the 2024 the first, second, and third place teams for our 2024 P&T Competition. Students recognized would be great to connect with, especially if you have an interest in participating in future P&T Competitions.
- [AMCP Foundation P&T Page](#) - A great resource to learn more about the P&T Competition, including "About the P&T Competition" and the video "Why Participate in the P&T Competition." The 2025 competition information will be added here as it becomes available.
- [How to Conduct a Local P&T Competition](#)- In depth guidance regarding how to navigate conducting a successful P&T competition.
- [AMCP Foundation P&T Rules & Requirements](#) - Details regarding the rules and requirements for the National Student Pharmacist P&T Competition.
- [AMCP Foundation Webinar Archives](#) - Archived webinars from the AMCP Foundation, including Competition training webinars.
- [AMCP Webinar Archives](#) - Archived webinars from AMCP with many excellent programs to help orient students to managed care pharmacy.

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