



MEDICAL CANNABIS

STAFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**Americans for
Safe Access**

2023-2026



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION



a project of Americans for Safe Access Foundation

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ABOUT US



Americans for Safe Access

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit. Founded in 2002, ASA serves as a vehicle for stakeholders to advocate for the acceptance of cannabis as medicine.

With over 150,000 active supporters in all 50 states, ASA is the largest national member-based organization of patients, medical professionals, scientists, providers and concerned citizens organized behind the mission of ensuring safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use and research.

For over 20 years, ASA has been implementing strategies to meet the immediate needs of medical cannabis patients while building a movement to overcome political, social, economic and legal barriers for a national medical cannabis program.

*Patient Focused Certification Program (PFC) is a project of ASA.
All proceeds go toward enhancing the program and furthering ASA's mission.*

EVERY PFC STUDENT RECEIVES AN ASA MEMBERSHIP



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

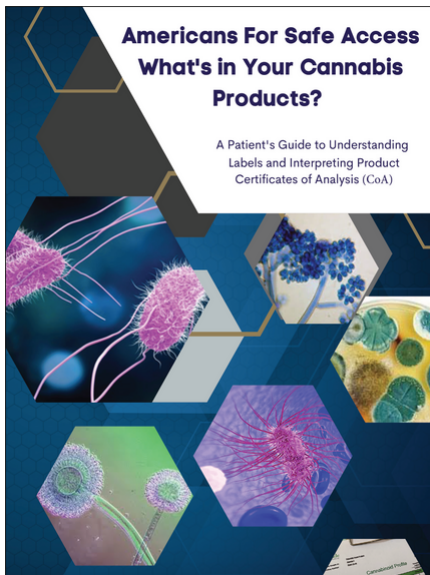
INTRODUCTION

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) helped create the medical cannabis market through the crafting and monitoring of state and local legislation and regulations. As a patient advocacy organization, product safety has been a top priority since our inception in 2002.

As cannabis production moved away from smaller home-grows into commercial settings, ASA knew they had a responsibility to make sure that products were being created safely and that companies had the tools they needed to incorporate product safety standards into their business practices.

In 2008, ASA coordinated global experts including the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP) to create product safety recommendations for growing, processing, testing, and distributing cannabis for human consumption.

ASA's Patient Focused Cannabis (PFC) Program was created to turn these into standards that are transparent, globally recognized (ISO 17065 accredited), and attainable to all businesses along the cannabis supply chain. PFC offers training, consulting and certification services.



PFC trainings are available online and offers specific training in Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, & Laboratory Operations.

The PFC training program prepares individuals for jobs in cannabis businesses with an understanding of required safety and operational protocols, while also teaching them the basics of cannabis as medicine and common therapeutic uses of cannabis.



Companies engaged in the PFC Certification program receive a 50% discount on all trainings for their staff and access to the PFC Staff Training Compliance Portal.



DC DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS STAFF CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM

REQUIREMENTS

- No prerequisites required
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better



COURSES

- Cannabinoids as Medicine
- Business Operations
- Understanding Cannabis Laws
- DC Compliance
- Distribution Operations National Cannabis Standards



DC DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE



REQUIREMENTS

- DC Distribution Operations Staff courses
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control & Batch Sampling
- Health & Sanitation



DC MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS STAFF CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM

REQUIREMENTS

- No prerequisites required
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Cannabinoids as Medicine
- Business Operations
- Understanding Cannabis Laws
- DC Compliance
- Manufacturing Operations National Cannabis Standards



DC MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

REQUIREMENTS

- DC Manufacturing Operations Staff courses
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control & Batch Sampling
- Health & Sanitation



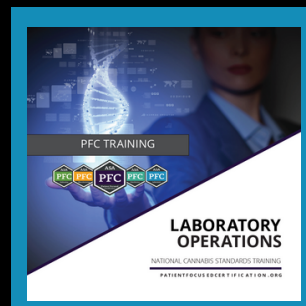
**COMING
SOON**



DC LABRATORY OPERATIONS STAFF CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM

REQUIREMENTS

- No prerequisites required
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better



COURSES

- Cannabinoids as Medicine
- Understanding Cannabis Laws
- DC Compliance
- Laboratory Operations National Cannabis Standards



DC LABRATORY OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

REQUIREMENTS

- DC Laboratory Operations Staff courses
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control & Batch Sampling
- Health & Sanitation



**COMING
SOON**

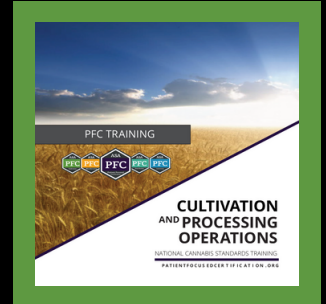
DC CULTIVATION OPERATIONS STAFF CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM

REQUIREMENTS

- No prerequisites required
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Cannabinoids as Medicine
- Business Operations
- Understanding Cannabis Laws
- DC Compliance
- Cultivation Operations National Cannabis Standards



DC CULTIVATION OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

REQUIREMENTS

- DC Cultivation Operations Staff courses
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with a score of 70% or better

COURSES

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control & Batch Sampling
- Pesticide Guidance & Integrated Pest Management



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

CANNABINOIDS AS MEDICINE

An overview of the different cannabinoids and terpenes, how cannabinoids work in the body, the most current cannabinoid research, and the various cannabinoid-based pharmaceutical drugs currently available.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

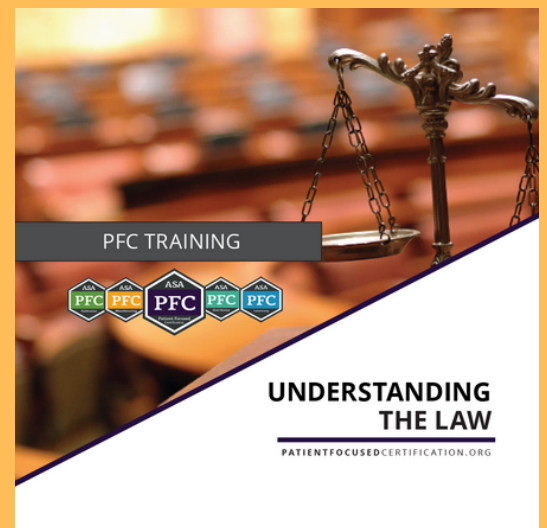
- Basics of the cannabis plant, the various cannabinoids and terpenes, and the different types of cannabis products available.
- Therapeutic use of cannabis and how it works in your body.
- Side effects of cannabis, including adverse effects.

UNDERSTANDING CANNABIS LAW

An overview of federal and state cannabis and hemp laws, the history of cannabis laws, and the conflict between state and federal laws.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

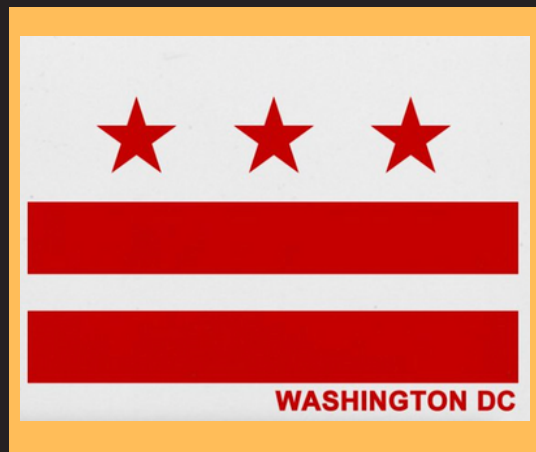
- Status of federal law, including the Controlled Substances Act, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its role as federal law enforcement, sentencing laws and guidelines, and other applicable laws.
- Explore the history of medical cannabis reform efforts and federal legislative efforts.
- Learn about patient's rights, landmark federal cases, and the current status of cannabis law.



How to deliver the best quality of care to customers, how to handle interactions with law enforcement, what to do in an emergency situation, and how to safely handle and store cannabis and hemp products

- Working effectively with patient populations.
- Planning for onsite emergencies, including medical and weather events.
- Being prepared for robberies, various security and safety protocols designed to help prevent robberies.
- Ensuring the safety of products, including how to spot contaminants and maintain safe and sanitary conditions.
- Security considerations such as customer screening, and diversion prevention.

Covering requirements specific to the District of Columbia including: patient qualification, business operations, legal requirements, record handling, and distribution.



- General Provisions the Legalization of Cannabis for Medical Treatment Amendment Act of 2010 & the
- Conditions of Registration: Permit Categories, Qualifying Patients & Caregivers, Registration Cards & Recommending Authorized Practitioners
- Underage Qualifying Patients and Caregivers
- Proper Disposal of Medical Cannabis
- Confidentiality of Records
- Investigations and Inspections
- Advertising, promotion and marketing of medical cannabis in DC

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

NATIONAL CANNABIS STANDARDS TRAININGS

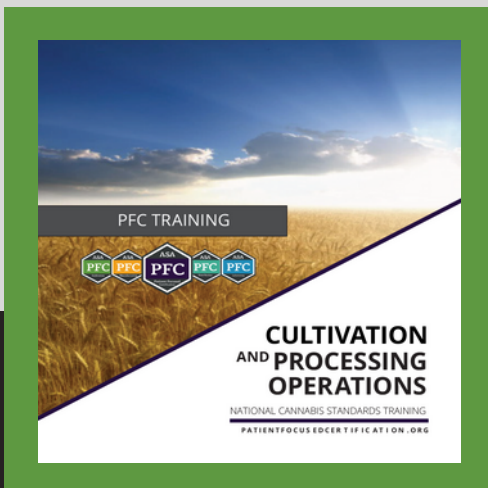


LABORATORY OPERATIONS

For those performing laboratory analysis of cannabis, hemp, cannabis-derived, and hemp-derived products. We examine good laboratory practices, facility security, sample handling and disposal, data management, personnel safety and hygiene, and reporting activities that may be unique to laboratories analyzing these types of products and matrices.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Facility maintenance requirements.
- Record keeping and documentation practices.
- Procedures for sample handling, result reporting, reference standards, maintenance, calibration and cleaning of all lab equipment and instruments.
- Requirements for method validation and analysis proficiency.



CULTIVATION & PROCESSING OPERATIONS

Learn to implement good agricultural practices, including pesticide guidance, facility requirements, water resource management, recordkeeping, product safety recall systems, adverse event recording, and information disclosure.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Good cultivation, processing and distribution practices.
- Protocols and operating procedures (with overview of pesticide guidance).
- General product safety guidance.
- Personnel training & workplace safety.
- Fire prevention, sanitation practices, electrical & ventilation systems, disposal & waste practices, and security provisions.
- Water resource management: including agricultural irrigation and discharge waters, as well as potable water for employee use.
- Record keeping practice & disclosure responsibilities.
- Handling adverse event recording & product recall.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

NATIONAL CANNABIS STANDARDS TRAININGS



DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS

Learn to implement best management practices relating to the distribution of cannabis and cannabis-derived products directly through storefront operations, delivery services, direct-from-garden operations, and cultivation cooperatives. This course also discusses best management practices for hemp CBD distribution.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The basics of dispensing operations.
- Best practices and standards for dispensing operations.
- Facilities maintenance and security.
- Different types of cannabis products.
- Core requirements for adverse event reporting and recall plans.



MANUFACTURING, PACKAGING, LABELING, & HOLDING OPERATIONS

For individuals engaged in the manufacturing of cannabis, hemp, and cannabis- and hemp-derived products. Learn to comply with Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Good manufacturing practices for the acquisition & distribution of plant material & derived products.
- Component control protocols, batch records, process monitoring & control, representative sampling & reserve samples, and specification documentation.
- Proper protocols, sanitation, and handling practices for equipment & utensils.
- Packaging & Labeling process controls.
- Holding controls including protocols for proper identification as well storage & handling.
- Good record keeping practices
- Adverse event recording & product recall programs

MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL & BATCH SAMPLING

Recommended for management-level employees of cannabis and hemp businesses. How to develop and implement quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) systems, including method validation and good manufacturing practices as they relate to QA/QC topics. Additionally, we explore representative sampling techniques and how to apply them to cultivation, processing, and manufacturing operations to ensure consistent product quality as well as accurate labeling.

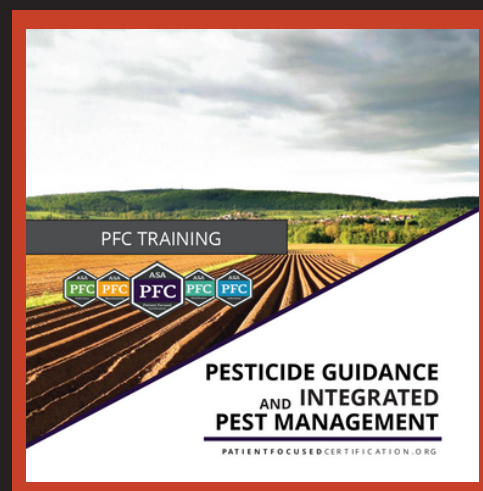


HEALTH & SANITATION

This training provides information on general types of cleaning, personal hygiene, measures such as social distancing, and guides students through the differences between general cleaning, sanitation, and sterilization. The training includes a review of the different types of personal protective equipment, when and how they should be used what to do in the event of a public health emergency.

PESTICIDE GUIDANCE & INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Highly recommended for all cultivation and processing managers. We offer specialized education pertaining to pesticides, properly reading pesticide labels, the importance and function of tolerance thresholds, major chemical families, restricted-entry intervals (REI), and personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as employee safety and employer responsibilities. Students will also learn the key components to developing a successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.



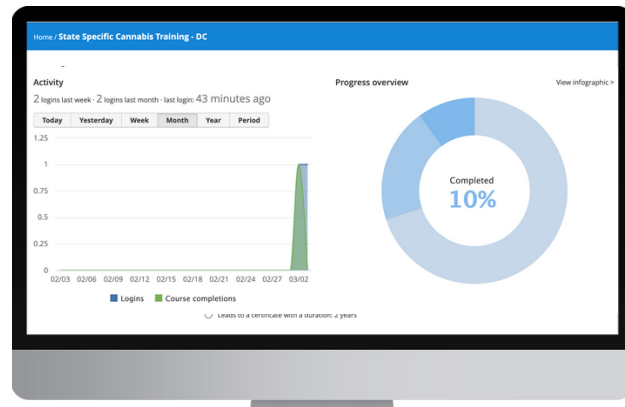
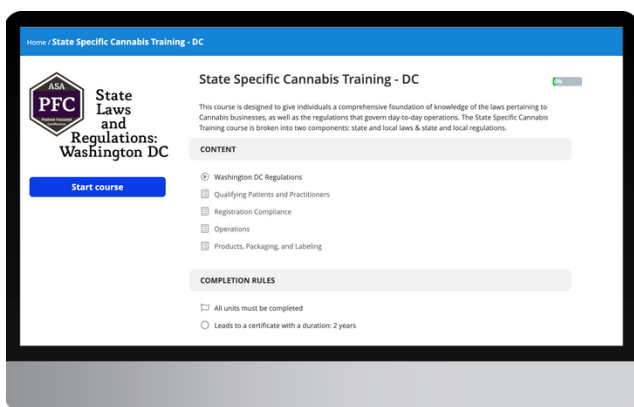
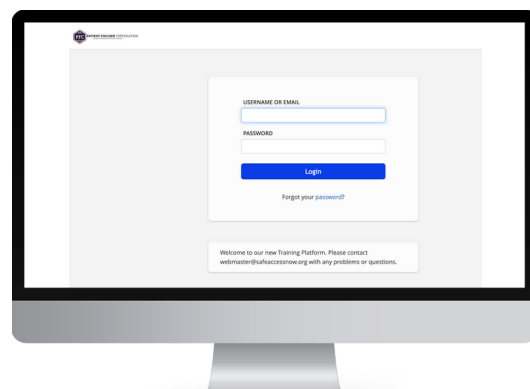
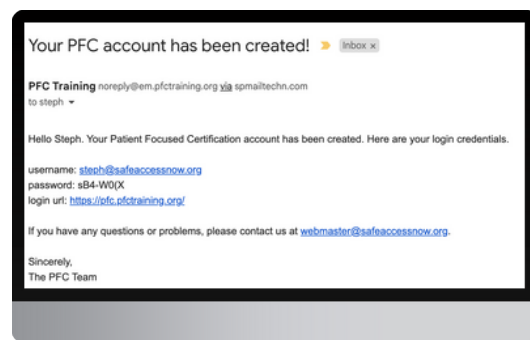
A. ENROLLMENT

1. On PFC training website students choose one of the following certifications:
 - DC STAFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING RETAIL OPERATIONS
 - DC STAFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING CULTIVATION OPERATIONS
 - DC STAFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS
 - DC STAFF CERTIFICATION TRAINING LABORATORY OPERATIONS
 (COMING SOON: MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATIONS)
2. Use discount code or make payment.
3. Student is enrolled!

B. STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

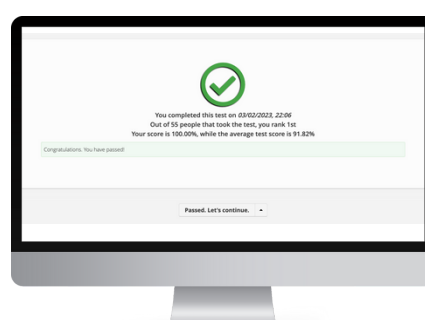
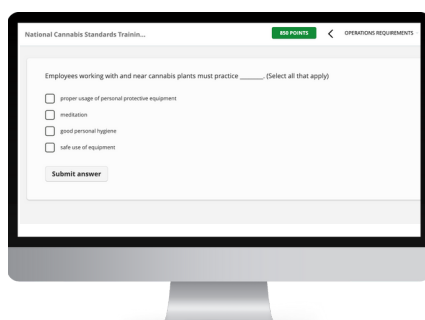
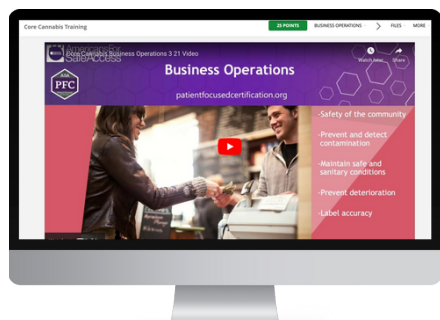
Student will receive an email after enrollment with link to training portal, passcode, overview of certification requirements, & a contact for technical questions.

The training portal gives students clear instructions on attending courses, course requirements & progress toward certification.



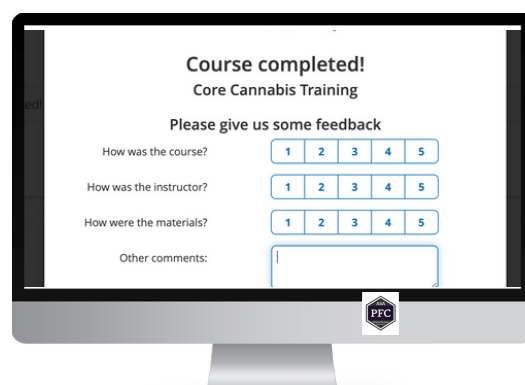
C. TRAINING & TEST EXPERIENCE

- Each course includes a video that students can start and stop as they need and downloadable learning guides.
- Tests follow each course and students know immediately if they pass or fail.
- Students can take the test a second time if they fail before being required to watch the video a second time.



D. STUDENT FEEDBACK

At completion of each course students are prompted to fill out a feedback survey.



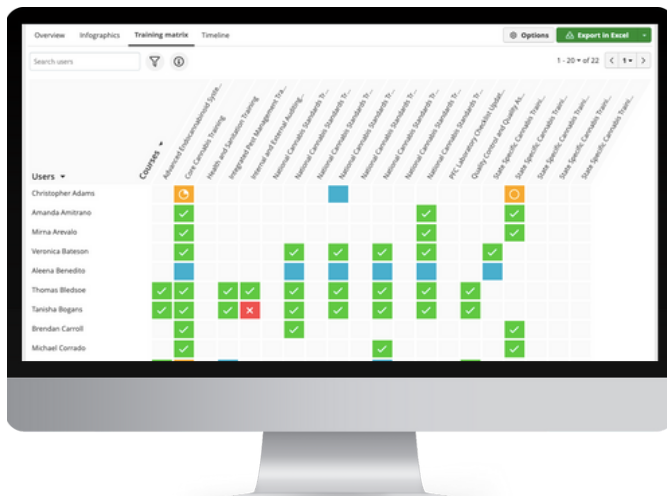
E. CERTIFICATE

Upon completion of all required courses, students are issued a digital certificate. Certificates expire after 2 years.



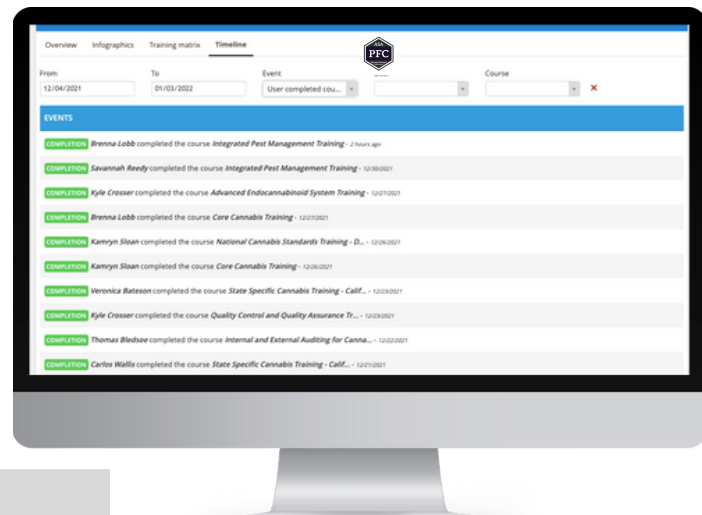
PFC STAFF TRAINING COMPLIANCE PORTAL

The PFC Staff Training Compliance Portal (STCP) allows managers to quickly monitor completion of courses and certificates of staff. STCP also makes training audits a breeze. Just a couple clicks and you can provide regulators proof of your compliance. This service is available by monthly subscription for \$100 a month or \$1,000 annually.



The STCP can generate reports on staff training status & will alert management when certificates expire or additional staff training is required.

Companies enrolled in the PFC Certification program receive a 50% discount on all trainings for their staff & free subscription to the STCP!



CUSTOMIZE PFC TRAININGS FOR STAFF & MANAGEMENT

PFC staff can work with companies utilizing the STCP service to customize staff and management courses with current PFC training curriculum or by developing new trainings such as state specific trainings or company specific protocols.

PRICING AVAILABLE BY REQUEST



Q: WHO IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE DC MEDICAL CANNABIS CERTIFIED STAFF TRAINING?

A: The training is required for all agents, managers & employees of cultivation centers, manufacturers, retailers, internet retailers, couriers & testing laboratories to receive license to work in/for these authorized entities.

Q: HOW MUCH DOES THE TRAINING CERTIFICATION COST?

A: \$450 per person or in the following discounted bundles:

\$ 1,750 5-Certificate bundle (Save \$500)
\$ 3,500 10-Certificate bundle (Save \$1000)
\$ 5,000 15-Certificate bundle (Save \$1750)
\$ 8,000 25-Certificate bundle (Save \$3250)
\$12,500 50-Certificate bundle (Save \$10,000)

Additional discounts are available for Companies enrolled in PFC certification program.

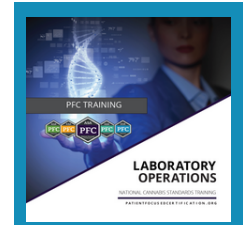
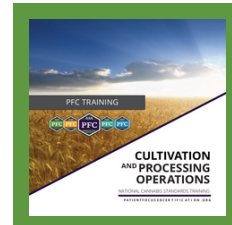
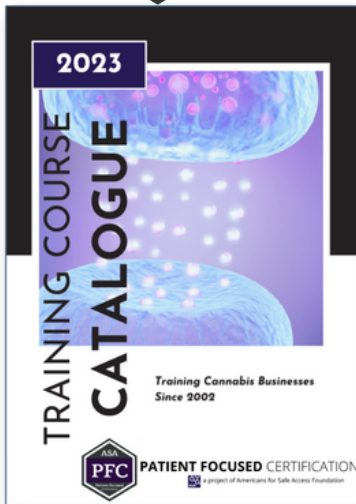
Q: HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING CERTIFICATION VALID?

A: DC Medical Cannabis Staff & Management Training certificates are valid for 2 years.

PFC offers robust education, training, & certification to aid companies & regulators in meeting these standards for patients. ASA has helped companies & governments across the globe navigate & implement product safety standards for cannabis & hemp products available for patients, adult use consumers & pets.



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM



PFC trainings are available online & include disciplines in Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, & Laboratory. The PFC training program prepares individuals for jobs in cannabis businesses with an understanding of required safety & operational protocols, while teaching them the basics of cannabis as medicine & common therapeutic uses of cannabis.



GMP/GAP/GLP EQUIVALENT THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION

The PFC's seal of approval confirms that cannabis & hemp operations are compliant with all local & state laws & regulations as well as PFC Standards. PFC program certification is available to qualifying hemp & cannabis companies in all states with medical cannabis &/or legal adult-use laws in place. PFC is designed for cannabis companies to demonstrate their commitment to providing patients with quality hemp, cannabis & derived products.



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS



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Safe Access

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