



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION



a project of Americans for Safe Access Foundation

PFC Industry Courses and Certifications

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) has been a trusted source of cannabis education and training for over 15 years. As a leader in medical cannabis education since 2002, ASA has conducted thousands of legal and advocacy trainings nationwide. ASA created Patient Focused Certification (PFC) as a certification and training program to help regulators, operators, and advocates ensure regulatory compliance for medical cannabis businesses.

The PFC training and education program prepares individuals to understand state and local regulations and to learn required safety and operational protocols, while teaching them the basics of cannabis as medicine and common therapeutic uses of cannabis. PFC trainings provide content that will also save businesses time and money, whether they are drafting regulations, applying for a license, or trying to pass numerous State inspections at an existing operation.

As state medical cannabis laws and regulations continue to evolve, medical cannabis-specific trainings have become increasingly mandated. PFC's training and education program is designed to meet the specific requirements of each individual state's mandated training and can help companies reduce the cost of developing, implementing, and operating in-house medical cannabis training programs.

PFC trainings are available online or are offered in-person by a PFC Certified Instructor.

Training

- Disciplines
 - Distribution
 - Cultivation and Processing
 - Manufacturing
 - Laboratory
- Certification Levels
 - Staff
 - Verified Professional
 - Auditor

Staff Certification (8-10 hours)

Requirements:

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

Courses include:

- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis as Medicine (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis Business Operations (2 hours)
- Core Cannabis Training: Understanding Cannabis Law (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: State and Local Legal Compliance (2 hours)
- National Cannabis Standards Training (choose 1 or more of the below disciplines)
 - o Distribution Operations (2 hours)
 - o Manufacturing, Packaging, Labeling and Holding Operations (4 hours)
 - o Cultivation and Processing Operations (2 hours)
 - o Laboratory Operations (2 hours)

Verified Professional Certifications (18.5 - 20.5 hours)

Requirements:

- No prerequisites required
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with an 80% or better score (tests can be retaken at additional cost)

Courses include:

- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis as Medicine (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis Business Operations (2 hours)
- Core Cannabis Training: Understanding Cannabis Law (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: State and Local Legal Compliance (2 hours)
- National Cannabis Standards Training (choose 1 or more of the below disciplines)
 - o Distribution Operations (2 hours)
 - o Manufacturing, Packaging, Labeling and Holding Operations (4 hours)
 - o Cultivation and Processing Operations (2 hours)
 - o Laboratory Operations (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Pesticide Guidance and Integrated Pest Management (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Quality Control Quality Assurance and Batch Sampling (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Advanced Endocannabinoid System (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Sustainable Cultivation (2 hours) - *For cultivation only*
- Enrichment Course: Cannabis Care Certification: Patient Education (2 hours) - *For Distribution only*
- Enrichment Course: Cannabis Extraction and Laboratory Safety (2.5 hours)

Auditor Certifications (20.5 course hours, 2 observed audits, and 2 shadow audits)

Requirements:

- Prerequisites* and approved application
- Attend the entirety of required courses
- Pass tests with an 80% or better score (tests can be retaken at additional cost)
- Complete field requirements

Courses include:

- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis as Medicine (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis Business Operations (2 hours)
- Core Cannabis Training: Understanding Cannabis Law (1 hour)
- Core Cannabis Training: State and Local Legal Compliance (2 hours)
- National Cannabis Standards Training (choose 1 or more of the below disciplines)
 - o Distribution Operations (2 hours)
 - o Manufacturing, Packaging, Labeling and Holding Operations (4 hours)
 - o Cultivation and Processing Operations (2 hours)
 - o Laboratory Operations (2 hours)

- Enrichment Course: Pesticide Guidance and Integrated Pest Management (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Quality Control Quality Assurance and Batch Sampling (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Advanced Endocannabinoid System (2 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Sustainable Cultivation (2 hours) - *For cultivation only*
- Enrichment Course: Cannabis Care Certification: Patient Education (2 hours) - *For Distribution only*
- Enrichment Course: Cannabis Extraction and Laboratory Safety (2.5 hours)
- Enrichment Course: Internal and External Auditing for Cannabis Operations (2 hours)

PFC Course Descriptions

Core Cannabis Training (CCT)

CCT provides the foundation of all PFC educational programs and is the prerequisite for any additional trainings. The CCT program is taught in sections, providing a well-rounded understanding of the history of medical cannabis laws, cannabis as medicine, cannabis science and research, and running a safe cannabis business.

Core Cannabis Training: Cannabis as Medicine (1 hour)

The course gives participants an overview of the most current cannabis research, how cannabis works in the body, different varieties of cannabis and cannabinoids, and the various cannabis-based pharmaceuticals currently available.

Core Cannabis Training: Business Operations (1 hour)

The course teaches how to deliver the best quality of care to customers, how to handle interactions with Federal Law Enforcement, what to do in an emergency situation, and how to ensure the safety of cannabis products.

Core Cannabis Training: Understanding the Law (1 hour)

The course is an overview of federal cannabis laws, the history of medical cannabis laws, which states have medical cannabis laws, and the conflict between state and federal laws. The course also includes a Federal Law Enforcement interaction and raid preparedness training component.

State Specific Compliance Training (SSCT) (2 hour)

These courses are designed to give individuals a comprehensive foundation of knowledge of the laws pertaining to Cannabis businesses, as well as, the regulations that govern day to day operations. The SSCT course is broken into two components: state and local laws & state and local regulations.

National Cannabis Standards Training (NCST)

NCST is designed to educate industry professionals about the particulars of compliance specific to the AHP Cannabis monograph and AHPA guidelines. The NCSTs are available in four (4) cannabis industry disciplines including cultivation and processing; manufacturing, packaging, labeling and holding; distribution; and laboratory analysis.

National Cannabis Standards Training: Cultivation and Processing Operations (2 hours)

This course is designed to educate industry professionals about the particulars of compliance specific to the AHPA Recommendations to Regulators. Learn the skills necessary to implement Good Agricultural Practices including pesticide guidance, facility requirements, water resource management, recordkeeping, product safety recall systems, adverse event recording, and information disclosure.

National Cannabis Standards Training: Manufacturing, Packaging, Labeling and Holding Operations (4 hours)

This course is designed to educate industry professionals about the particulars of compliance specific to the AHPA guidelines. The training is designed for individuals engaged in the manufacturing of cannabis and derived product and provides the tools necessary to comply with Good Manufacturing Practices.

National Cannabis Standards Training: Laboratory Operations (2 hours)

This course is designed to educate industry professionals about the particulars of compliance specific to the AHP Cannabis Monograph and AHPA guidelines. This guide is designed for individuals performing laboratory analysis of cannabis and cannabis-derived products. The guide will examine good laboratory practices and facility security, sample handling and disposal, data management, personnel safety and hygiene, and reporting activities that may be unique to laboratories analyzing cannabis, cannabis-derived products, and hemp samples.

National Cannabis Standards Training: Distribution Operations (2 hours)

This course is designed to educate industry professionals about the particulars of compliance specific to the AHPA guidelines. In this guide you will learn the skills necessary to implement Best Management Practices relating to the distribution of cannabis and derived products directly to compliant individuals through storefront operations, delivery services, direct-from-garden operations, and growing co-op operations.

PFC Enrichment Courses (PFCEC)

PFCEC offer individuals specialized Cannabis industry education ranging from Pesticide Guidance and Integrated Pest Management to QA/QC and Representative Sampling. PFC Enrichment Courses can be utilized to fulfil continuing education requirements for staff PFC Verified Professionals and are part of the required courses for PFC Verified Professionals and PFC Accredited Auditors seeking to achieve and maintain accreditation.

Enrichment Course: Pesticide Guidance and Integrated Pest Management (2 hours)

This course offers individuals specialized cannabis industry education that includes key definitions pertaining to pesticides and how to properly read a pesticide label. The trainings explore the importance and function of tolerance thresholds, major chemical families, Restricted Entry Intervals (REI's), and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) as well as employee safety and employer responsibilities. You will also learn the key components to developing a successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. This guide is highly recommended for all cultivation and processing management personnel.

Enrichment Course: Sustainable Cultivation (2 hours)

Designed to help cultivators reduce their impact on the environment, this course provides tools for reducing the carbon footprint of cultivation operations as well as the use, recycling and reuse of mediums. In addition, this course discusses appropriate nutrient use, the consequence of mined and imported materials, and the proper storage of chemicals. Water source development, use, storage and reduction techniques are also addressed in this course as is the proper tracking of materials used during the cultivation process.

Enrichment Course: Quality Control Quality Assurance and Batch Sampling (2 hours)

This course offers individuals specialized education that includes developing and implementing Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) systems, including method validation and General Manufacturing Practices (GMP's) as they relate to QA/QC topics. Additionally, this guide will explore "representative sampling" techniques and how to apply them to cultivation, processing, and manufacturing operations to ensure consistent product purity and quality as well as accurate labeling. This guide is strongly recommended for management working in a Cannabis business.

Enrichment Course: Advance Endocannabinoid System (2 hours)

This course offers individuals specialized education that covers how cannabis works in the human body and in-depth look at current research. The course covers how THC, CBD, and other substances work in the human body by stimulating the endocannabinoid system and is recommended for people with a base knowledge in medical cannabis and in areas such as manufacturing, marketing, education, product development, laboratory managers and technicians, doctors and nurses.

Enrichment Course: Internal and External Auditing for Cannabis Operations (2 hours)

This course offers individuals specialized education including audit protocols; how to administer checklists, questionnaires, and document reviews; and guidelines for conduct and travel tips. The course also covers etiquette and appropriate protocols for interacting with staff and management at the location being audited as well as organizational techniques necessary for writing a final audit report.

Enrichment Course: Cannabis Extraction and Laboratory Safety 101 (2.5 hours)

This course is designed as a comprehensive review of current methodologies and best practices in the extraction and processing of cannabis. Participants will learn the latest developments in extraction and analysis technologies, guidance on how to comply with standards, regulations, and how to operate safely.

Enrichment Course: Cannabis Care Certification Patient Education (2 hours)

This course offers individuals a view into talking to their patients about medical cannabis and is recommended for all individuals interacting with patients.