

“How can a certificate in leadership and management from the ACCP Academy benefit my career as a clinician?”

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Participating in the ACCP Academy Leadership and Management Certificate Program can benefit your career as well as various other aspects of your life. As a clinician or new practitioner, you may think, “Well, I am not planning to go into administration, so why would I participate in a leadership and management program?” or “I am early in my career, so why should I consider participating in a leadership and management certificate program?” Each of you will answer these questions differently. However, remember that leadership is not just about an administrative position, nor is it something that is defined by time or years in the field. Leadership encompasses much more than that; it is about your own personal leadership in your career and life.

Leadership starts with leading yourself. You must be able to manage your own life in order to lead others. How will you interact with others, handle difficult situations, and define and accomplish your goals? Understanding these concepts, regardless of where you are in your career, will benefit you in various aspects of your life. Outlined below are some of the benefits you will gain by participating in the ACCP Academy Leadership and Management Certificate Program.

1. **Cultivating Personal Direction**—One of the key concepts of the certificate in leadership and management from the ACCP Academy is learning to cultivate personal leadership, leading yourself. The program will help you outline your goals. Where do you want to be in 5, 10, 15 years; at the end of your career? How will you get there? What other roles do you play in your life, not just in your career but also in your life overall, and how does that fit with your career? How do you want to be remembered in life? As part of the program, you will do a variety of exercises such as develop a personal mission statement to help you identify the path in life you wish to take. These exercises will also help you highlight important and valuable aspects of your time that we sometimes forget as we focus on our careers. Neglecting these other areas of our lives can lead to career burnout, so learning about these concepts early in your career will be quite beneficial.
2. **Developing Interpersonal Skills**—Topics such as trust, listening, conflict management, and negotiation are covered in the program. The curriculum provides a good foundation for developing your interpersonal relationship skills. In addition, by participating in the activities, you will learn how crucial it is to have trust in a relationship, in an organization, and in influencing others. These skills will help you not only in administrative positions, but also as a clinician when working with other providers, patients, and students as well as individuals in your personal life.
3. **Networking and Developing Relationships**—Throughout the program, you will work with others by participating in exercises. This is a great way to network, make connections, and learn about different programs and leadership styles. Many of the exercises are personal in nature, and you will bond with others in discussing life issues, sharing experiences, and connecting on topics outside pharmacy. Ultimately, it will give you an appreciation and understanding of others and help you realize that you are not alone. Moreover, the relationships you form will likely last beyond the duration of your program.

4. Working with a Mentor—One requirement of the program is to identify a mentor you will work with throughout the year. This will be very useful to you and will give you an opportunity to meet with someone in your field or organization who can help guide you regarding your interactions and career as well as your role in your field or organization. Moreover, as above, this mentoring relationship will likely last beyond the duration of your program and provide valuable support for years to come.
5. Accomplishing Things for Yourself and in Your Organization—Another aspect of the program involves how to run an effective meeting, develop an agenda, and accomplish things for yourself or in your organization. Topics such as time management and ways to avoid distractions are discussed in the program. Practical tips and suggested readings are provided that will help you prioritize and make the most of your time over the long term.
6. Learning About Leadership Styles and Defining Your Own Vision—Learning about different leadership styles and defining your own vision of leadership are two of the valuable insights you will gain while in the program. This will help you recognize leadership styles in others and make you aware of what leadership should be, using your own definition and vision. Having these insights will in turn benefit you in a variety of ways. Not only will it help you in working with supervisors and others around you, but it will also help you recognize what leadership style appeals to you, which may then assist you in selecting a job.

In summary, as a clinician or new practitioner, the awareness and insights you gain from participating in the ACCP Academy Leadership and Management Certificate Program will apply to all aspects of your life, and developing an early road map for your career through the program according to your own visions, goals, and aspirations will be fundamental to your success in both your career and your life.

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