

ASHIM MALHOTRA, PHD, FAAPE - CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATE UNIVERSITY



Ashim Malhotra, PhD, FAAPE, FASPET is Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation at California Northstate University (CNU). Reporting to the university president, he leads a diverse academic enterprise that includes the colleges of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Psychology, Graduate Studies (PhD, MPS, MHA), and Health Sciences (BS, BSN), located across three urban campuses in the Sacramento Metro Region in northern California.

In this capacity, Dr. Malhotra oversees programmatic and institutional accreditation, programmatic and institutional assessment, institutional research, strategic planning, policy, compliance, and operational aspects of governance. His leadership in building a unified academic quality framework spanning six health professions has elevated the application of accreditation standards and fostered collaboration throughout CNU.

Internationally recognized for his contributions to pharmacology and pharmacy education, Dr. Malhotra began his career with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Hamdard University (India) and MS/PhD degrees from St. John's University (NYC). His early research in mitochondrial pharmacology at NYU School of Medicine in New York City, including a highly cited PNAS paper on Barth syndrome, laid a strong scientific foundation.

Over the past two decades, he transitioned from laboratory research to national leadership in health professions education, focusing on evidence-based instructional design, faculty development, and academic transformation.

As Assistant Dean of Accreditation, University Distinguished Teacher, and Professor of Pharmacology at the CNU College of Pharmacy, Dr. Malhotra integrates foundational pharmacology with clinical practice and curriculum innovation. He has taught >3,000 students. Renowned for innovative teaching, he leverages cognitive science and learning analytics to advance immunology, cardiovascular pharmacology, and interprofessional pharmacotherapeutics.

As Founding Senior Director of the university's Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence (ITLE), Dr. Malhotra established a university-wide ecosystem for faculty development, delivering over 60 high-impact programs and engaging >500 faculty. ITLE's frameworks are now integral to institutional policy and accreditation. He is the university Director of Interprofessional Education (IPE) and designed an integrated IPE model spanning six CNU colleges and multiple institutions, transforming health care education in Northern California.

Building on his work in research and teaching, Dr. Malhotra has contributed as a member of the Board of Directors (Council) for the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). Specifically, his national roles with ASPET include service as Chair of the ASPET REACH Committee (2023-2026) and architecting two U.S. faculty development programs for pharmacology educators, including the ASPET IDEA Scholars and the upcoming ASPET Academic Leadership Academy.

Additionally, he has chaired the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Global Education, served AACP at the U.S. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and on >15 national committees, and led AACP's international delegation and academic diplomacy. For the California Northstate University, he has launched international partnerships and MOUs, positively impacting student/junior faculty/research exchanges and recruitment.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) has continually recognized his excellence through multiple honors, including the AACP Biological Sciences Distinguished Service Award, AACP Global Education Outstanding Service Award, AACP Biological Sciences Faculty Mentor of the Year, and teaching/learning innovation awards such as Teacher/Professor of the Year, Biological Sciences Innovations in Teaching Award, Innovations in Teaching Award. He has served as an AACP Walmart Scholar Mentor. His work has been recognized by 53 awards and honors as of 2026. These accolades reflect his sustained impact on teaching, mentorship, and international pharmacy education.

Driven by a belief in the transformative power of education, Dr. Malhotra's mentorship of >70 students and >80 faculty has led to numerous achievements, including national awards for research and innovation. ASPET has honored him with the Fellow of ASPET (FASPET, 2025), Fellow of the Academy of Pharmacology Educators (FAAPE, 2020), the Pharmacology Educator's Travel Award (2017), the Dolores Shockley National Competition (2017), and mentored student awards for research in AI and pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

Dr. Malhotra's accreditation, academic governance, assessment, and IPE contributions were recognized during university reaccreditation and through nine university president awards. His service as a site visit accreditation evaluator for the U.S. Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), a programmatic accreditor and the U.S. institutional accreditor, WSCUC, underscores his expertise in standards and quality compliance. His lifetime commitment to excellence in pharmacology education, national service, and servant leadership is shaping the future of health-professions education.