

The history of Pro-~~A~~CT, Inc. goes back to 1975 when Paul A. Smith, Ph.D., working in a California State Mental Hospital, observed high levels of assault and injury suffered by employees and patients. The timeline below traces the path from Paul's initial observations to Pro-~~A~~CT, Inc. today.

Pro-~~A~~CT, Inc. Timeline

- 1975** Original workshop presented by Paul Smith when he was working as a Licensed Psychiatric Technician at a State Hospital in Camarillo, California. The original workshop, "Physical Intervention," was intended to teach non-punitive methods for manual restraint.
- 1976** The workshop was rewritten and re-titled "Management of Assaultive Behavior" (MAB). The MAB workshop had a greater emphasis on verbal crisis intervention and methods for redirection. In 1976, the MAB workshop was adopted by the State of California as the standard for psychiatric nursing staff.
- 1981** Dr. Smith completed a three-year study of the performance outcomes of the MAB workshop. This study found that the performance of staff improved in the area of physical intervention, but the effects of teaching verbal interventions were negligible. This led Dr. Smith to rewrite the MAB program.
- 1982** The new workshop, Professional Assault Response Training (PART), incorporated a certification process and was offered for use in outpatient, residential, and educational settings. The PART workshop emphasized self-control, assessment skills, and verbal crisis intervention. At the same time, Professional Growth Facilitators, a collective partnership of clinical and social service professionals, was formed to promote and deliver the PART curriculum. Revisions to the PART workshop continued throughout the next two decades with new editions completed in: **1995, 1999, 2000.**
- 2002** Following Dr. Smith's retirement, the PART curriculum was renamed Pro-~~A~~CT Training and the content further evolved with greater emphasis on Principles as an approach for problem-solving potentially dangerous situations and avoiding or eliminating restraint. The most notable change from the earlier material is the Pro-~~A~~CT curriculum separated the training of restraint Principles from the curriculum's earlier Principles. This created two separate training programs and two separate certifications (i.e., Pro-~~A~~CT, Pro-~~A~~CT Restraint Certification). During this same transition, the remaining members of Professional Growth Facilitators incorporated the organization to form Pro-~~A~~CT, Inc.
- 2006** Utilizing legislative changes, research updates, and user feedback, as well as social and cultural change and expectations, the Pro-~~A~~CT Training content continued the process of updates and revisions, with new materials released in 2006. That release was followed by subsequent updates in 2010, 2012, 2016.

- 2016** Pro-ACT, Inc. added online learning to product offerings with the release of Pro-ACT Advantage e-Learning. The Advantage curriculum incorporates the first half of the Pro-ACT training in an easily accessible format that can be used as a stand-alone training or combined with Instructor-led training for full Pro-ACT certification in a shortened timeframe.
- 2019** Pro-ACT, Inc. began offering ½-day, culturally current workshops on topics related to behavior management, social service, and client care.
- 2020** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pro-ACT training's 2020 revisions incorporated a higher degree of Trainer-led, virtual training. In support of that change, Pro-ACT, Inc. established a new set of Roundtable discussions focusing on the practices of virtual training, implicit bias, assertive communication, and development of a Pro-ACT culture.
- 2022** In 2022, Pro-ACT, Inc. released a new edition of Pro-ACT training and Pro-ACT Advantage e-Learning. The 2022 edition of the Pro-ACT curriculum continues to allow for virtual as well as site-based delivery. Additionally, the 2022 edition of the Pro-ACT curriculum eliminates the floor-assisted restraint position.
- 2024** Pro-ACT, Inc. added OPTIONS 553 Workplace Violence Prevention training to its list of training offerings. OPTIONS 553 training was developed in response to CA SB 553 and nationwide OSHA recommendations. OPTIONS 553 is offered as a ½-day workshop for individuals, 1-day In-service Instructor training, and as an online course, OPTIONS 553 e-Learning.
- 2025** Pro-ACT, Inc. will release the newest edition of PRO-ACT training, PRO-ACT Restraint Certification training, and Pro-ACT Advantage e-Learning.

With a Mission of *Educating with care and purpose to expand the culture of safety for our clients, their employees and the people they support*, Pro-ACT, Inc. continues to pursue the development of valuable and up-to-date training programs that are delivered with integrity and serve the needs of our clients and greater community.