

MORE THAN A MEETING  
#ASHP22

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# ACPE UPDATE

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Executive Director, ACPE

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## Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- ACPE Update
  - Colleges/Schools
    - Standards revision update
  - CE Update
- International Services Program
- Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission

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Some background...



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## ACPE – What do we do?



- **ACPE Accredits:**
  - **Professional degree programs** (1932)
    - US Department of Education recognition, since 1952
    - Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition, since 2004
  - **Providers of continuing pharmacy education** (1975)
    - Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™ (founded with Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education [ACCME] and American Nurses Credentialing Center [ANCC]) (2009)
  - **Pharmacy technician programs** (2015)
    - Collaboration with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- **ACPE Certifies:**
  - **Professional degree programs** outside the USA and its territories (2011)



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## ACPE Board of Directors and Commissions

- Three appointees each by:
  - American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) – **educators**
  - American Pharmacists Association (APhA) – **practitioners**
  - National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) – **regulators**
- One appointee by:
  - American Council on Education (ACE) – **non-pharmacy educator, public member**
- Three-year terms of office
- Commissions for CPE provider accreditation (12), International Commission (8), Pharmacy technician education accreditation (10 with ASHP)

**The Board makes all determinations of compliance with accreditation and certification standards**



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## ACPE Board of Directors

- Reza Karimi, President (AACP, 2018-2024)
- Amy Seybert, Vice President (APhA, 2019-2025)
- LuGina Mendez-Harper, Treasurer (NABP, 2016-2025)
- Susan Buechele (ACE, 2022-2025)
- Kimberly Croley (APhA, 2020-2026)
- John Kirtley (NABP, 2014-2026)
- Winnie Landis (APhA, 2020-2024)
- Michael A. Moné (NABP, 2006-2024)
- Cindy Stowe (AACP, 2022-2025)
- Sharon Youmans (AACP, 2020-2026)



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## Where do you fit in?

- Respond to calls for volunteers
- Volunteer for various ACPE roles
  - Commissions
  - Site teams
  - Workshops



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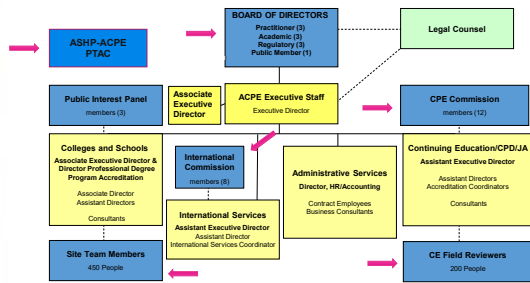
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## ACPE Structure



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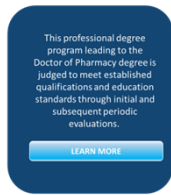
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## Current State of College/School Accreditation



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## Fall 2022 Status

BY THE NUMBERS:	
139	PharmD Programs hold full Accredited Status
1	PharmD Program holds Accredited with Probation Status
2	PharmD Programs hold Candidate Status
0	PharmD Programs hold Pre-Candidate Status
9	Comprehensive Evaluations during Fall 2022
3	Focused Evaluations during Fall 2022
26	Verification Visits during Fall 2022
43	Trained Site Evaluators on visits in Fall 2022, supported by 3 ACPE staff and 3 ACPE staff consultants
7	PharmD Programs authorized for Online/Distance Learning Pathway, defined as delivering 50% or more of the didactic content via distance learning
18	PharmD Programs offering an accelerated three-year curriculum



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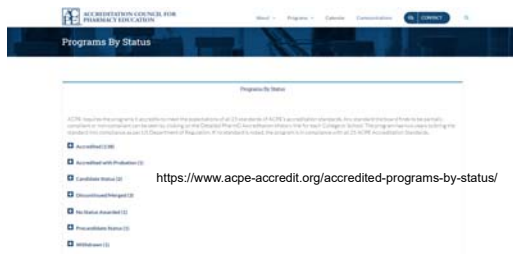
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## Information is available on the ACPE website



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## ACPE Fee Structure

- Current fee structure for accreditation activities reviewed by the Board in June
- Fees for colleges/schools will be maintained at current levels for 2023 including 30% reduction in fees if visit is virtual
- CE accreditation fees will remain the same for 2023, however, penalties were reinstated in September 2022



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### COVID-19 and Colleges/Schools



- ACPE is recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) for the accreditation and preaccreditation, within the United States, of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree
- All USDE guidance is valid for the duration of the national emergency declaration and 180 days following the date on which the COVID-19 national emergency declaration is rescinded
- On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) was extended to **January 13, 2023**. It is unlikely to be extended past this date.



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### USDE Guidance



- Schools may continue to use distance education without the normal ACPE approval process throughout spring 2023
- Once the USDE waiver is lifted, distance education will need to go through the normal ACPE approval process



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### Online Education

- Increase in number of proposed online pathways
  - Currently operating under the DOE waiver
  - Requires planning and notification to ACPE
  - 25-49% of didactic courses (do not include APPE credits): substantive change letter with course/credit list indicating what is being taught virtually
  - >50%: substantive change letter with comprehensive academic plan
  - Expectation of total program comparability (an issue in any pathway is an issue for the entire program)



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## Online Education



- Continuing everything virtually (even in distance education programs is not feasible, nor desirable, post pandemic)
- Programs should be in regular communication with ACPE staff as they assess the continuation of virtual/distance education elements post pandemic
- Highly recommended that programs planning to use distance education >25% inform ACPE now



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## Annual Monitoring

- Doctor of Pharmacy programs are monitoring annually:
  - Changes and trends in NAPLEX® Outcomes
  - Changes and Trends in Enrollment
  - On-Time Graduation Rate Monitoring including academic dismissals, withdrawals and delayed progression
  - Financial Resources
  - Job Placement/Gainful Employment (information only – USDE expectation)
  - Other outcome parameters of program choosing (information only)



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## Annual Monitoring

Criterion	Benchmark	National Average 2021
Total Attrition	≥ 24%	13.1%
Academic Dismissals	≥ 6%	3.1%
Withdrawals*	≥ 6%	3.8%
Delayed Graduations	≥ 15%	6.3%

Note: ACPE's benchmarks have historically been approximately 2x the national average  
\*Withdrawal includes any reason (other than academic dismissal or delayed graduation) for removal from the program, including disability or death



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### What happens if a program falls outside of a benchmark?

- A letter will be sent from ACPE to a program requesting that they identify the cause of and provide an action plan for correcting any negative changes or trends
- Such a letter **may not be required** if the ACPE Board has received prior information provided by the program that adequately addresses the matter (e.g. delayed graduation because unvaccinated students can't be placed on rotation)
- If a program has been sent an annual monitoring letter by ACPE in *three or more years within any five-year period*, the Board may invite representatives of the program to meet with the Board



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### Future – Annual Monitoring

- Board is reviewing all annual monitoring criteria
  - Reviewing practices of other programmatic accreditors
  - How defined, prolonged pathways would fit into annual monitoring criteria
- Looking at methods to make reporting more accurate
- *Should ACPE define a bright line or benchmark for NAPLEX versus using the 2SD cutoff?*
- *Develop clearly defined consequences for multiple years of poor performance (i.e., probation or loss of accreditation)?*
  - Will be reaching out to the academy for feedback to share with the ACPE Board



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## Providers

	ACPE CPE Provider Accreditation	Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education
Accredited Providers	270	143
Commendation	2	12
Probation	0	1
Inactive status	2	2



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## ACPE Universal Activity Number (UAN) (0197-0000-22-001-L04-P/T)

- Unique identifier assigned to each CPE activity
- Composed of multiple elements that indicate specific information about the nature of the activity
  - Provider, activity format, target audience, topic
- The topic designator options in the UAN has been updated
  - Topic designator 04: Pharmacy Administration (formerly general pharmacy); used when covering economic, legal, social administrative or managerial aspects of pharmacy
  - Topic Designator 99: used to capture topics that relate to the practice of pharmacy but don't fit into any of the 8 topic designator categories



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### Topic Designator

The Topic Designator is the last 2 digits of the Universal Activity Number and should be designated as follows:

01: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy - activities that address drugs, drug therapy, and/or disease states.

02: AIDS Therapy - activities that address therapeutic, legal, social, ethical, or psychological issues related to the understanding and treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS.

03: Law Related to Pharmacy Practice - activities that address federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations affecting the practice of pharmacy.

04: Pharmacy Administration - activities that address topics relevant to the practice of pharmacy that include the economic, legal, social, administrative and managerial aspects of pharmacy practice and health care.

05: Patient Safety - activities that address topics relevant to the prevention of healthcare errors and the elimination or mitigation of patient injury caused by healthcare errors.

06: Immunizations - activities related to the provision of immunizations, i.e., recommend immunization schedules, administration procedures, proper storage and disposal, and record keeping. This also includes review for appropriateness or contraindication and identifying and reporting adverse drug events and providing necessary first aid.

07: Compounding - activities related to sterile, nonsterile, and hazardous drug compounding for humans and animals. This includes best practices and USP quality assurance standards, environmental testing and control, record keeping, error detection and reporting, and continuous quality improvement processes.

08: Pain Management - activities that address any component regarding the treatment and management of pain, including the prescribing, distribution and use of opioid medications, and/or the risks, symptoms, and treatment of opioid misuse/addiction.

99: Additional Topic Areas - activities related to topics relevant to the practice of pharmacy not included in the classifications of the topic designators 01-08.

99-Additional Topic Areas



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## Additions to the Provider Web Tool



- Activities that meet certain re-licensure or certification requirements can be identified
  - Pharmacist (e.g., BPS) and technician (e.g., PTCB) requirements are listed
  - State regulatory requirements can also be designated
  - Specific tags will be added for providers to select activities that meet specific regulatory requirements (e.g., sexual harassment, implicit bias)
- Certificate Programs
  - Certificate Program Form
  - Once the activity is conducted and upon completion of the requirements for credit of the Certificate Program, the provider should:
    - Award ACPE CE credit to the pharmacist and/or pharmacy technician for the UANs (modules) completed via CPE Monitor®, **AND**, if applicable.
    - Award completion of the ACPE Certificate Program (CPN) via CPE Monitor®.



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## Provider Web Tool



- This will result in learners' earning CE credit for the modules completed within the Certificate Program.
- For the learners who complete all the modules (many times this does not occur), the provider will award completion of a Certificate Program which will show in a different section of the learner's transcript.



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Consulting, training, and professional degree program Certification to stakeholders around the world who seek guidance related to quality assurance and advancement of pharmacy education.

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## New Terminology

- International program terminology change
  - From “certification” to “international-accreditation” (International Pre-Accreditation,” and “Provisional International-Accreditation”)
  - All programs have been notified that the new designation does not imply or confer eligibility to graduates of a program with such status to apply directly to sit for the NAPLEX exam for licensure in the United States
  - Safeguards in place include website disclosure, student acknowledgment, etc.



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## Terminology Change – Why?

- Accreditation is the term recognized and sought after by governments, institutions, students, parents, and other stakeholders
- Many universities that are otherwise interested to work with ACPE have stated that they will not apply solely because of the use of the current terminology, “certification”.
- The final decision to apply to ACPE is made by university administrators and they only understand (and accept) the term “accreditation.” The process is expensive and resource intensive; university administrators are not willing to pay for an outcome/product that they consider to be inferior and/or of lower value



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## Terminology Change - Safeguards



- ACPE is providing clear disclaimers on its website and in all its materials, including its Policies and Procedures, and is requiring the following:
  - A **disclaimer** using wording specified by ACPE on the foreign school’s website and other applicable media, publications, etc.
  - All **enrolled students** must sign an **acknowledgement** that graduation from the program with International-Accreditation Status does not confer eligibility to graduates to apply directly to sit for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) for licensure in the US
  - An agreement that schools with programs with [current] Certification Status will need to sign stating they will **comply with the new Policies and Procedures** before the status of the program is changed from “Certified” to “Internationally-Accredited” (or other status, as applicable); i.e., “grandfathering.”
  - ACPE’s Policies and Procedures will include **sanctions** for schools that provide false or misleading information about the benefits of International-Accreditation Status for graduates of a program with International-Accreditation Status, up to and including withdrawal of International-Accreditation Status for failure to comply in a timely manner with ACPE requests to remove or correct any false or misleading information.



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## Programs with Certification Status



### SAUDI ARABIA

- > Batterjee Medical College (BMC), Pharmacy Program: PharmD Degree Program
- > King Faisal University (KFU), College of Clinical Pharmacy: PharmD Degree Program
- > King Saud University (KSU), College of Pharmacy: PharmD Degree Program
- > Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University, College of Pharmacy: BPS Degree Program
- > Qassim University (QU), College of Pharmacy: PharmD Degree Program



### INDIA

- > JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, College of Pharmacy (Mysuru and Ooty Campuses): PharmD Degree Program



### INDONESIA

- > University of Surabaya, Faculty of Pharmacy: Pharmacy Education Program



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## Programs with Certification Status



### JORDAN

- > Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Faculty of Pharmacy: BPharm Degree Program
- > Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, Faculty of Pharmacy: BSc Degree Program
- > Applied Science Private University, Faculty of Pharmacy: BSc Degree Program
- > Jordan University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy: BSc and PharmD Degree Programs
- > Middle East University, Faculty of Pharmacy: BSc Degree Program
- > The University of Jordan (UJ), School of Pharmacy: BSc and PharmD Degree Programs
- > University of Petra, Faculty of Pharmacy: BSc Degree Program



### NORTHERN CYPRUS

- > Near East University (NEU), Faculty of Pharmacy: MPharm Degree Program



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## Programs with Certification Status



### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- > Ajman University, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences: BPharm Degree Program
- > Al Ain University (AAU) of Science and Technology, College of Pharmacy: BSc. (Pharm) Degree Program
- > Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls: BPharm Degree Program
- > Gulf Medical University, College of Pharmacy: PharmD Degree Program
- > RAK Medical and Health Sciences University, College of Pharmacy: BPharm Degree Program



### LEBANON

- > Lebanese International University School of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree Program



### MAURITIUS (Precertification Status)

- > JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius School of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree



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**Pharmacy Technician Education Accreditation Collaboration**

A collaboration between ACPE and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) to promote, assure, and advance the quality of pharmacy technician education and training

[LEARN MORE](#)

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**Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC)**

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- Formed through ASHP/ACPE collaboration
- ACPE Board approved ASHP standards, guidelines, and procedures for PTAC
- PTAC recommendations require approval of both ASHP and ACPE Boards

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**PTAC**

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	January 2022	October 2022
Number of ASHP/ACPE Accredited Programs	226	245
New Applications	2	12
Reaccreditation Reviews	17	19
Midterm Progress and Special Case Reviews	24	17

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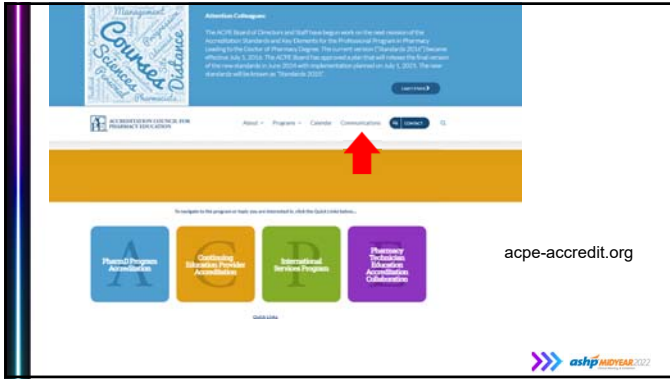
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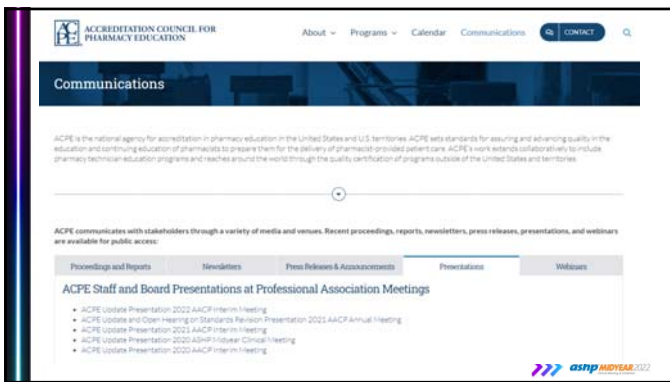
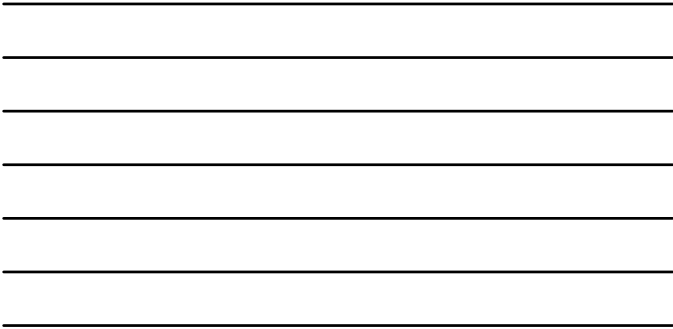
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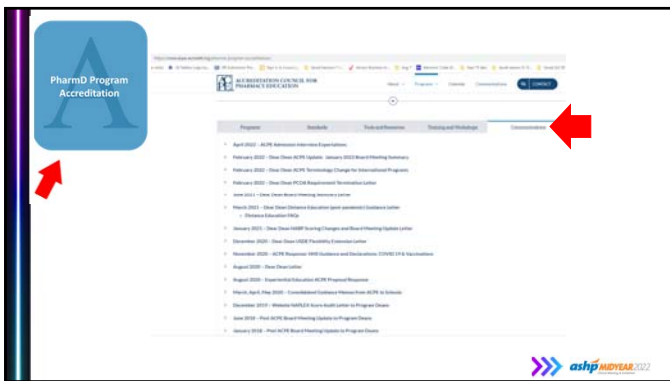
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Your Turn – Questions/Comments



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