

ACPE Update: Assuring Quality in Pharmacy Education amid a Pandemic



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Today's Agenda





- Announcements
- Discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pharmacy education, continuing education providers, international programs and pharmacy technician training programs
- Describe the flexibilities offered to meet ACPE Standards to US pharmacy programs during the pandemic
- General update on ACPE activities
- Response to questions generated from the request posted on AACP Connect



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Announcements (Fig. 1)	
 Promotions Greg Boyer – Associate Executive Director 	
• New staff	
Kimberly Catledge, PharmD, Assistant Director, Accreditation for the Continuing Pharmacy Education Accreditation Program	
Sarah Blazek, Accreditation Coordinator, CPE Provider Accreditation	

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Christina Terrell, Joint Accreditation Coordinator

Some background	
Some background	
ACPE	
INClusion 2021 March Report	
AODE 144 - 1 - 1 - 2	
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 	
 Founding member (2014) of Health Professions Accreditors Collaborative (HPAC) 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)	
INClusion 2021 March Page	
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 Six-year terms of office 	
 Commissions for CPE provider accreditation (12), International Commission (8), Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (10 with ASHP) 	
The Board makes all determinations of compliance with accreditation and certification standards	
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Where do you fit in?

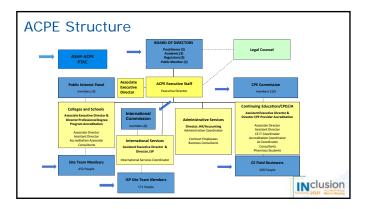


- Respond to calls for volunteers for these board positions
- Volunteer for various ACPE roles
 - Commissions
 - Site teams
 - Workshops
- Get involved at your institution
 - Self-study





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- PharmD Self-Study Workshops (virtual)
 - August 5-6
 - August 11-12

https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/82021sswkshops



CPE Workshops (virtual)



- ACPE CPE Administrator Virtual Workshop, March 3-4, 2021 (sold-out)
- $^{\circ}$ CPE Monitor Guidance for ACPE-Accredited Providers Virtual Meeting, March 8^{th} , 10am-noon central
- $^{\rm o}$ Joint Accreditation: Let's Get Started Virtual Workshop, March 19th, 10am-2pm central



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Current State of Colle	ege/School
PharmD Program Accreditation	This professional degree program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree is judged to meet established qualifications and education standards through initial and subsequent periodic evaluations. LEARN MORE

Accreditation Statistics



• 143 PharmD programs hold status with ACPE



Status Number Accredited 136 Accredited and on probation 1 Accreditation status withdrawn 2 Candidate status 4 Precandidate status 2

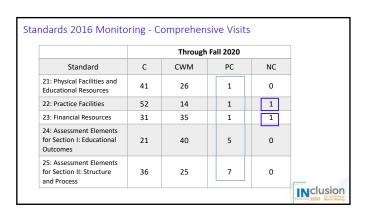
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION	About - Programs - Calendar Communications Q CONTACT
	Programs By Status
compliant or non-compliant can be seen by clicking on the Detaile	s of all 25 standards of ACPE's accreditation standards. Any standard the board finds to be partially of of particular Accreditation History link for each Colleger of School. The program has two years to bring the no standard is need the program is in compliance with all 25 CAPE Accreditation Standards.
□ Accredited	
■ Accredited with Probation	
Candidate Status	
Landidate Status	
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		Throu	igh Fall 2020		
Standard	С	CWM	PC	NC	
1: Foundational Knowledge	66	2	0	0	
2: Essentials for Practice and Care	65	3	0	0	
3: Approach to Practice and Care	61	6	1	0	
4: Personal and Professional Development	55	10	3	0	

		Through	n Fall 2020	
Standard	С	CWM	PC	NC
: Eligibility and Reporting Requirements	64	3	1	0
i: College or School Vision, Mission, and Goals	67	1	0	0
: Strategic Plan	34	33	1	0
: Organization and Governance	33	34	1	0
: Organizational Culture	57	11	0	0

		Thro	ugh Fall 202	0
Standard	С	CWM	PC	NC
10: Curriculum Design, Delivery, and Oversight	36	29	3	0
11: Interprofessional Education (IPE)	29	36	3	0
12: Pre-APPE Curriculum	48	16	2	2
13: APPE Curriculum	60	6	1	1

		Throu	gh Fall 2020)	
Standard	С	CWM	PC	NC	
14: Student Services	50	18	0	0	
15: Academic Environment	59	9	0	0	
16: Admissions	53	15	0	0	
17: Progression	36	31	1	0	
18: Faculty and Staff - Quantitative Factors	19	46	3	0	
19: Faculty and Staff - Qualitative Factors	41	26	1	0	
'	41 58	26	0	0	



Annual	Monitoring	Parameters



ACPE and Doctor of Pharmacy programs are monitoring annually:

- Changes and trends in NAPLEX® Outcomes* (1/26/21 Dear Dean letter)
- Changes and Trends in Enrollment including: Matriculation, Dismissals, Withdrawals, Delayed Progression
- · On-Time Graduation Rate Monitoring
- Financial Resources
- Pharmacists Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) (information only waived this academic year)
- Job Placement/Gainful Employment (information only USDE expectation)
- Other outcome parameters of program choosing (information only)



Audience question



- In recent communication from NABP, the value of NAPLEX and MPJE pass rates and scores as outcomes for assessment was questioned. What are ACPE's preferred outcomes when assessing, on a student-bystudent basis in order to improve the program, things like the effectiveness of programs' admission criteria (Standard 25) now that student-specific results are not available?
- Will schools be able to make branch campus comparisons?



ACPE Response



- In mid-December, ACPE received a communication from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) telling us that there will be changes to the NAPLEX exam taking effect on January 18, 2021.
- These modifications included changes to the reporting of results for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams to a pass/fail result. NABP let us know that they will no longer provide a numerical score to the candidates and candidate waiver requests will be eliminated.

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ACPE F	Response
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- ACPE Board of Directors has voted to approve modifying our Policies and Procedures to eliminate section 11.6.1.b:
 - 11.6.1.b. A letter will be sent to a program whose graduates obtain a Mean scaled Score on the NAPLEX® lower than that represented by at least two standard deviations below the average obtained by all candidates taking that examination. This shall apply only to first-time examination candidates from ACPE-accredited programs. Both calendar year and academic year data are used in this analysis.
- ACPE will continue to monitor a program's percentage pass rates on the NAPLEX exam as we have in the past



ACPE Response



- It is up to the program to determine the appropriate assessment measures/parameters to which you have access to measure program outcomes
- ACPE does not expect a program to be accountable for data they do not have
- NABP has indicated that they will be supplying percent pass rates based on campus as they do now so comparisons will be possible
- Al Carter has initiated a 3 way conversation between NABP, AACP and ACPE on March $18^{\rm th}$ with quarterly follow-up to discuss issues of mutual interest



Ensuring quality in pharmacy education in the midst of a pandemic







ACPE	Staff	and	Board	Phil	losopł	าy
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• While ACPE understands that schools are under a great deal of pressure with the loss of normal resources, our job is to assure quality in pharmacy education and we do that through the standards that all have agreed are necessary to produce a practice-ready pharmacist.



ACPE Response



Underlying philosophy

• Flexibility is allowed BUT within the boundaries of the ACPE Standards

Creativity and innovation is encouraged but within the standards; relaxing the standards was not an option



COVID-19 and Colleges/Schools



- ACPE has held virtual meetings (with AACP) with Deans and issued 10 guidance letters to deans to date with updates regarding the flexibilities offered.
 - All can be found under the communications tab at: https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pharmd-program-accreditation/
- Permanent changes considered substantive changes and need to be reported and in some cases, approved by ACPE

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Examples of issues addressed by ACPE due to pandemic

- Online learning
- Curricular changes
- Grading
- Laboratory sessions or skills labs
- Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE); 300 hours required, 60 hours of which may be simulated
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE); 1440 hours required and 4 core rotations of 160 hours each required
- COVID-19 screening activities for IPPE/APPE hours
- · Affiliation agreements
- Admissions standards



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



COVID-19 and Colleges/Schools



- USDE is allowing virtual site visits on a temporary basis based on predetermined parameters (e.g., a school in good standing)
- USDE also requires that an abbreviated face-to-face site visit be completed as soon as is feasible after the virtual site visit in order to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements to perform regular on-site inspections
 - Anticipate verification visits will occur when safe to travel and will generally consist of a one day meeting depending on the findings of the virtual visit

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Ensuring	ı qualit	vsite	visits



- The majority of on-site evaluations in spring 2020 were postponed to fall 2020
- All fall 2020 visits (26) were converted to virtual visits using Zoom technology
- Site visits went well and post-visit survey results were very positive
- Programs were given a 30% refund in site visit fees since ACPE incurs less travel expenses with verification visits included
- Per the USDE mandate, ACPE must conduct a Verification Visit (on-site) at a later time for each Virtual Visit as outlined in ACPE policy



Spring 2021 Site Visits



- ACPE will continue to conduct domestic site visits virtually in spring 2021
 - 13 comprehensive visits
 - 8 focused visits
 - 84 site team members
- Fall site visit methodology will be determined at a later date



USDE Guidance



- Schools may continue to use distance education without the normal ACPE approval process throughout spring 2021 with fall 2021 to be determined
- Once the USDE waiver is lifted, distance education greater than 50% of the program will need to go through the normal ACPE approval process



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Audience question	
For the 2021-2022 academic year, what is ACPE's perspective on students who request to continue virtual learning experiences as campuses re-open for in-person instruction? Many students continue to have compelling medical and non-medical rationale related to the pandemic. At what point would these "COVID accommodations" be considered an alternate pathway?	
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ACPE Response	
 ACPE will be guided by USDE requirements; at this point, through spring 2021 An individual decision like this rests with the program. Continuing everything virtually (even in distance ed programs is not feasible, nor desirable, post pandemic). 	
Once the pandemic ends, any curricular delivery that exceeds 50% is considered by USDE as distance education (DE). Thus, any plans beyond 50% delivery in DE, will require the customary substantive change notification, site visit, etc. Degrame should be in regular communication with ACDE staff as they access.	
 Programs should be in regular communication with ACPE staff as they assess the continuation of DE elements post pandemic. More information about the process will be sent out in the next few weeks 	
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Ensuring quality...summary



- ACPE has offered as much flexibility as it possibly can while remaining "within the boundaries of the standards."
- ACPE leaves it to a program's faculty to determine what can be offered virtually via distance learning and what must be taught in a face-to-face settings. How an instructor conducted his/her classroom, offered examinations, etc., has always been a faculty responsibility.
- ACPE's expectations are that what the faculty does must be "within the boundaries of the standards" 3 years of didactic instruction or its equivalent, 300 hours of IPPE appropriately placed in curriculum, 1440 hours APPE with four-week core (minimum) experience in community, institutional, ambulatory care and medicine.





COVID-19 and CPE/CPD



- CPE providers were faced with transitioning live programs to an online format
- The profession needed solid CPE programming related to coronavirus
 A listing was developed and posted on our website
- Creativity and innovation in content delivery had to be addressed

COVID	-19	and	CPE/	'CPD
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- To allow flexibility during the pandemic, the ACPE CPE staff waived some policies related to the administrative components of CE activities
- ACPE staff became aware of CE professionals and entire CE departments being furloughed
- For Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education, accreditation reviews were converted to virtual conference calls since many team members were not able to travel
 - A few of the organizations due to be reviewed had to postpone their review due as they were first line responding organizations.

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COVID-19 and CPE/CPD HHS Guidance on Immunizations



- The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recently issued guidance under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to expand access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines when they are made available
- ACPE was specifically mentioned in the guidance with regard to the initial qualifications, maintaining qualifications and the training needed
- ACPE reached out to all accredited providers with additional information about these requirements and posted a list of ACPEaccredited CE activities available on the ACPE website



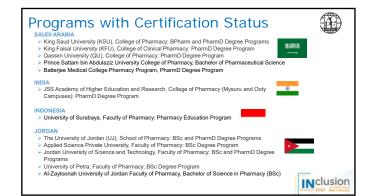
HHS Ruling and PharmD Programs



- A letter was sent to all Deans on November 19, 2021
- Background information with HHS Guidance
- ACPE's response was included with information specifically targeted towards student pharmacists
- Accreditation standards only require "provide an avenue through which students earn certificates in immunization delivery" which does not address the length or content of immunization training
- If program's training meets HHS standards of at least 20 hours of training that includes hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines, then the degree program may meet the spirit of the HHS guidance
- Students will need documentation to this effect

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COVID-19 and International Services Program

- All fall 2020 site visits were postponed
- Virtual site visits for some programs will occur in the spring
- In person fall 2021 visits for programs that do not qualify for a virtual visit are all tentative at this point





Pharmacy Technician Education Accreditation Collaboration

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Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission

- 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

COVID-19 and	l Technicians
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- ASHP/ACPE accredited technician programs had issues similar to those experienced by our colleges and schools of pharmacy
- Issues with experiential and lab training
- Schools closed down so site visits could not occur
- Several calls held with stakeholders
- PTAC meetings have been held virtually

	June 2020	January 2021
Number of ASHP/ACPE Accredited Programs	254	258
New Applications	7	2
Reaccreditation Reviews	13	13
Midterm Progress and Special Case Reviews	29	31



COVID-19 and the Profession

- National pharmacy organizations under the umbrella of JCPP have been working together
- Bi-weekly and now weekly calls occur to discuss issues
- Several guidance documents and letters to FDA and other government officials have been disseminated endorsed by most organizations



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ACPE and the Future





- First and foremost, ACPE needs to be above reproach for its accreditation/certification activities and to ensure excellence in all aspects of pharmacy education
 - Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)/CHEA International Quality Group
 - National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)/US Department of Education
- ACPE/ISP is a member of the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG) and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), and is in the process of applying for INQAAHE Recognition



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- Continuing fact-finding with Board, staff, internal and external constituencies to better determine the opportunities and challenges
 - Surveyed our key constituencies last summer
 - Reviewing data
- Engagement of our stake-holders in a deliberate way; focus groups at national meetings
 - To date
 - Meetings with ASHP, NABP, APhA, FIP, AFPE, PTCB, ASHP, AACP as well as accreditor meetings



ACPE and the Future



- Strategic planning to commence with action plan to follow
- Communication and transparency critical
- Four conference calls with Deans and AACP
- Ten "Dear Dean" guidance letters
 Response to Experiential Administrators
- 3 task forces held in August and December (curriculum, assessment, experiential education) involving over 50 faculty*

- education) involving over 50 faculty*

 CE Provider workshops

 International informational webinar completed in May

 Article about ACPE and COVID-19 published in AJPE in June

 Spring and Fall editions of "ACPE Update"

 CPE Provider (3) and CPD (1) e-update/newsletters

 Participation in weekly JCPP calls/NABP state board calls when invited

 Co-signatory on many profession-wide letters



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• ACPE engaged three groups of members over the last year to provide input on the current standards. Can you explain a bit of what you learned and what is happening as a result?





ACPE Response



- The three groups were only engaged to assist in simplifying the current rubric and minimizing the number of uploads to the essentials. The uploads were significantly decreased as a result. These three groups did NOT jumpstart the standards revision process, they only worked with the existing rubric. The new rubric will be available spring 2022.
- The groups also reviewed and revised the Blue Book questions that are utilized for site visits



Audience Question





- When is AAMS expected to be updated to reflect the revisions to the Standards 2016 rubric?
- From AACP:

AACP manages the technical side of AAMS for schools and will be working to release a new version of the rubric as soon as possible in AAMS. While AACP cannot provide an exact date at this time, please be on the lookout for a communication from AACP on what to expect during this transition.

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Q & A





- When AAMS is updated, will anything already uploaded or submitted be lost?
 - Schools that have already submitted or will submit a self-study in the current version of the rubric to ACPE will not lose content as submitted self-studies are preserved and eventually archived in AAMS by ACPE.
 - Schools that will submit under the new version of the rubric: AACP plans to create a new version of the rubric in AAMS. AACP is still working on the details of the transition to the new version, such as managing added content like required uploads, and will share more information later. Schools submitting under the new version, beginning in spring 2022, may want to consider waiting for the new rubric version to be released in AAMS.



Q & A





With these revisions, it appears that there are only two required items for on-site documentation (student complaint file, building blueprints) - is this correct?

- Complaints file is a USDE requirement that must be provided on site if requested
- Blueprints are only required if there are relevant blueprints (i.e., new or reconfigured space for example)



Audience Question





- Can you walk us through the Standards revision timeline including the opportunities for input from individuals and organizations?
- What are the areas (if any have been identified) where the board feels the most intense examination of the standards is needed?



Standards Revision 2025 ***ACMEDITATION COUNCY, FOR FINAMENCY EDUCATION ***ACMEDITATION IS TANDARDED AND REV FLEMENTS FOR THE PROPERTY LANDS TO THE PROPERTY COUNCY OF THE PROPERTY C

Standards Revision 2025



- January 2021: Announcement of the plan to revise the Standards
- March 2021-July 2021: Survey of key constituencies
- July 2021-March 2022: Hold public hearings at Annual Meetings of AACP, NABP, APhA and ASHP
- June 2022: Brief ACPE Board on Key Findings from the Public Comments and Hearings
 - Review key changes in new CAPE document (if released as planned in June 2022)
 - Seek Board's guidance on any key directions emerging from the public comments and revised CAPE



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Standards Revision 2025



- July 2022-December 2022: Prepare revised Standards and Guidance addressing <u>Mission/Strategic Plan, Curriculum</u> – both didactic and experiential
- January 2023: Board reviews relevant drafts of new/revised standards & guidance for Mission/Strategic Plan, Curriculum – both didactic and experiential
- February May 2023:
 - ACPE Staff begin rubric updates for Mission/Strategic Plan, Curriculum.
 - Prepare revised standards & guidance addressing Students and Faculty/Staff/Preceptors

Standards Revision 2025



- June 2023: Board reviews relevant drafts of new/revised standards & guidance for Students and Faculty/ Staff/ Preceptors
- July December 2023:
 - ACPE Staff begin rubric updates for Students and Faculty/Staff/Preceptors.
 - Prepare revised standards & guidance addressing <u>Facilities & Teaching Resources</u>, <u>Finances</u>, <u>and Assessment</u>
- January 2024: Board reviews relevant drafts of new/revised standards & guidance for Facilities & Teaching Resources, Finances, and Assessment
 - RELEASE OF DRAFT "STANDARDS 2025" FOR PUBLIC COMMENT



Standards Revision 2025



- February-May 2024: ACPE Staff begin rubric updates for Facilities & Teaching Resources, Finances, and Assessment
- June 2024:
 - Board reviews and approves complete volume of new standards & guidance, to be known as "Standards 2025"
 - "Standards 2025" released following Board Meeting with release and implementation July 1, 2025
 - Allows 12 months between release of new standards and their implementation
 - New Rubrics to support "Standards 2025" released in "pdf" format



Standards Revision 2025



- July 1, 2025: Implementation of new standards, known as "Standards 2025"
 - ACPE will request from each accredited program a Readiness Response to "Standards 25" – the four or five most significant changes between "Standards 2016" and "Standards 2025"
 - Exempt: those with visits in Fall 2025 as new standards will be addressed in the self-study
- January 2026: Board reviews all Readiness Responses and takes appropriate actions on each



Audi	ience	Question



• Is there a plan for inclusion and equity to be part of future iterations of ACPE standards?

A Board Task Force was appointed in January. One of the charges is to look into what could be considered in the Guidance and the Standards. We are very early in the process.



Conclusion





- Relaxing the PharmD, CE, technician training program standards or international quality criteria was not an option even in such times as these
- Finding new and creative ways to live within the boundaries of the standards was appropriate and needed
- Academic integrity guides us and the need fulfill our responsibility to the public safety by graduating pharmacists and technicians ready to enter practice and providing continuing pharmacy education of high quality to aid pharmacists in life-long learning
- ACPE values input from its constituencies and will do our best to be transparent and user friendly

 Inclusion





Thank you!



