



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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Dear Pharmacy Dean:

The ACPE Board of Directors met during the last week of January, and I would like to share additional items from that meeting that may be of interest to you in addition to the prior recent communications related to PCOA and the terminology change to “international-accreditation.”

At the January meeting, the Board of Directors approved a policy change (below) related to student charges. This change can be found in the ACPE Policies and Procedures for ACPE Accreditation of Professional Degree Programs located at: <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CSPoliciesandProceduresJanuary2022.pdf>.

Student Charges

As may be required by institutional accreditors, ACPE requires programs to notify students of any projected additional student charges associated with the verification of student identity at the time of registration or enrollment.

As the above may not be part of your regular notifications to students, we wanted to alert you to this policy change. It is a change that was required but the US Department of Education, therefore, we had to comply. ACPE has included a question related to this policy as part of the “blue book” questions that serve to guide discussions during the comprehensive review process and will document responses as part of the evaluation team report (ETR).

The ACPE Board of Directors established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force in January 2021. While the Task Force acknowledged more focus on DEI is needed, the group is not recommending an actual change in Standards 2016. Rather, the Task Force strongly recommends that DEI be more fully addressed in the next version of the Standards.

During the interim period between now and the finalization of Standards 2025, the Task Force recommended ACPE collect additional data on DEI in its annual July survey of job placement and program outcomes conducted in July 2021. Three questions regarding the incorporation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion were asked as part of the Job Placement/Gainful Employment survey which had a 100% response rate. As reported by survey respondents, steps many programs have taken to advance DEI include:

- 68% established a task force or committee to advance DEI initiatives in their program
- 55% provided faculty development in fostering an inclusive classroom
- 53% added curricular content on DEI when providing patient care
- 58% engaged student leaders in DEI discussion
- One hundred and two programs (71.8%) have a formal statement that appears on the University's website.

The full survey results were also shared with AACP staff.

ACPE is the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE also offers evaluation and certification of professional degree programs internationally and with ASHP accredits pharmacy technician education and training programs.

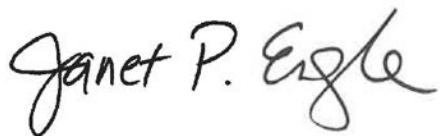
Findings from the job placement survey indicated that 76.42% of graduates in AY 2020 were engaged in the profession with either employment or postgraduate training or education. However, 21.91% of graduates were lost to follow-up so the job placement number may be higher.

The Board discussed several proposals for establishing online PharmD programs. During that discussion it was noted there still appears to be confusion about online/distance education programs and what needs to be reported to ACPE. As you are aware, the US Department of Education has provided guidance to accreditors that allows schools and colleges to continue to use distance education without the normal ACPE approval process for the duration of the national emergency declaration and 180 days following the date on which the COVID-19 national emergency declaration is rescinded. At this point, we do not know when the national emergency order will be rescinded. Therefore, we do not know exactly when programs will need to submit a substantive change if distance education is used to deliver more than 25% of the didactic courses and a comprehensive academic plan if distance education is used to deliver more than 50% of the didactic courses. ACPE will be monitoring the situation and will give you notice once the emergency declaration is lifted and the final date for waivers is known. It is highly recommended that you contact ACPE staff now to discuss the various requirements if you plan to offer distance education that is greater than 25% of your didactic curriculum rather than wait until the end of the waiver period.

Finally, the Board reviewed and discussed the annual monitoring policies in place. Practices of other programmatic accreditors were also reviewed. The Board is considering methods to make reporting more accurate. They are also discussing whether there should be a required permanent benchmark pass rate or bright line for NAPLEX versus using the current measure of 2 standard deviations below the average. ACPE staff will be reaching out to the academy for feedback on these issues.

ACPE staff are available to answer any questions you have about these or any other items. You can reach us via email at: csinfo@acpe-accredit.org or feel free to reach out to Greg Boyer, Mary Kiersma, Dawn Zarembski, or myself directly.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet P. Engle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet P. Engle, Pharm.D., Ph.D. (Hon), FAPhA, FCCP, FNAP
Executive Director
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)