



American Council on Pharmaceutical Education Strategic Plan 2001

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This strategic planning document is a work in progress that is regularly reviewed by ACPE's Board of Directors. As we refine our strategic plan, we invite you to submit your questions and comments:

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CORE PURPOSE

To assure excellence in education
for the profession of pharmacy

ACPE

ACPE assures excellence in education for the profession of pharmacy by:

- Establishing standards and criteria for the accreditation of pharmacy programs and continuing education providers
- Promoting continuous quality improvement within its accredited groups and itself
- Accrediting pharmaceutical education providers and programs.
- Reporting publicly on its activities
- Encouraging innovation in pharmaceutical education
- Emphasizing learning outcomes in pharmaceutical education
- Consulting and assisting in the development and advancement of quality pharmaceutical education, including the conduct of accreditation research
- Gathering and analyzing information and ideas from multiple sources and viewpoints and requesting and responding to feedback from its various constituencies as the basis for wise policy development and decision-making
- Managing its resources responsibly

ACPE CONSTITUENCIES

- The general public
- The profession of pharmacy
- Students and prospective students of pharmacy
- Licensing boards in pharmacy
- Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy and their parent institutions
- Providers of continuing pharmaceutical education
- Other health professions

Note: Not in any rank order.

ACPE CORE VALUES

- Commitment
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Learning
- Responsiveness

Note: Not in any rank order.

ULTIMATE GOAL

To be recognized globally as a model of
excellence for health profession
education accreditation

ACPE

CI 1	Goal 1	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Improve communication between accredited CE providers and ACPE and among providers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate information from ACPE via multiple mechanisms i.e. listservs, newsletters, etc. 2. Continue to conduct regional and national workshops regarding ACPE standards and the accreditation process. 3. Develop and implement means to encourage communication among providers (e.g., meetings, electronic communications, etc.). 4. Evaluate the CE advisory committee structure
CI 1	Goal 2	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Simplify, clarify and improve the CE provider evaluation process.	<p><u>Review Process:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reevaluate the new provider application process, including eligibility criteria. 2. Reassess the reporting process. 3. Reevaluate the comprehensive review to achieve a balance of process and outcomes. 4. Improve ACPE's feedback to the Provider in the Actions and Recommendations so that it is facilitative. 5. Identify and evaluate methods to streamline the CE provider accreditation process with other accrediting bodies, i.e. ACCME. <p><u>Field Reviewers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Increase the number of qualified field reviewers. 7. Conduct regional and national workshops to train field reviewers. 8. Continue to invite field reviewers to CE provider workshops and conferences. 9. Provide feedback to field reviewers of their evaluation. <p><u>Practitioner Involvement:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Evaluate and modify, as necessary, the role of practitioners in the CE provider evaluation process.

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CI 1	Goal 3	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Assess the effectiveness of the Certificate Program evaluation process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the notification process. 2. Assess the evaluation process. 3. Assess the accreditation terms in conjunction with the general continuing accreditation terms.
CI 1	Goal 4	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Strengthen the integrity of the continuing education system	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refine standards of noncommercialism including the role and method of commercial support. 2. Work with other organizations to explore common standards of ethical behavior. 3. Educate providers about ethical concerns and misconduct. 4. Assure validity of systems used to verify continuing education credit awarded. 5. Develop a mechanism to encourage reporting of complaints of unethical issues.
CI 1	Goal 5	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Enhance the use of objective measures to assess the effectiveness of the standards in assuring the provision of quality continuing education and certificate programs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify valid assessment indicators for each criteria/standard in CE. 2. Revalidate assessment indicators periodically. 3. Utilize assessment indicators in the evaluation process (i.e. in assigning terms). 4. Report results to providers. 5. Evaluate the relevance of the accreditation standards and refine them as necessary.
CI 1	Goal 6	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Develop a system to share practices among providers of continuing education to assist in quality improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop procedures to identify successful and unsuccessful practices. 2. Identify means by which these practices can be effectively shared. 3. Ascertain if sharing of practices influences quality improvement.

CI 1	Goal 7	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Clarify and communicate provider and participant support services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market the search engine Pharmacist Learning Assistance Network (PLAN) on the web to organizations, practitioners, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refine the search process to search via a curricular or competency-based focus. 2. Promote use of web-based Program Description Form (PDF) tool. 3. Provide access to instruments/tools that assist providers with development of continuing education offerings via the ACPE website, hardcopy, etc. 4. Provide a list of professional development resources for providers.
CI 1	Goal 8	Strategic Actions
Continuing Education Provider Accreditation Process	Initiate a collaborative reevaluation of the existing continuing education model in pharmacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify CE requirements of other organizations, i.e. requirements from licensing bodies, certification boards, pharmacy technicians. 2. Explore CE processes and activities of other health professions, domestic and international, e.g., concepts of Continuous Professional Development, lifelong learning. 3. Explore mechanisms to more effectively evaluate alternative methods (i.e. internet-based) for delivering continuing education. 4. Identify competencies of providers of continuing education. 5. Evaluate concept of levels of continuing education and implications to accreditation. 6. Encourage scholarship of continuing education and adult learning within pharmacy. 7. Help promote lifelong learning throughout a career in pharmacy (in collaboration with colleges/schools of pharmacy, residency/fellowship programs and pharmacy organizations). 8. Examine the influence of differences (i.e., resources, type of organizations) among providers on the provision of continuing education.

CI 2	Goal 1	Strategic Actions
Professional Degree Program Accreditation Process	Simplify, clarify and improve the evaluation process for professional degree programs accredited by ACPE.	<p><u>Self-Study Process:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a plan to enhance use of technology in self-study and evaluation processes. 2. Revise and simplify self-study guide. 3. Prepare additional guidance materials for Colleges and Schools and evaluation teams regarding ACPE standards, policies, and procedures (e.g., MSACHE materials, brochures, videos, computer-based, etc.). 4. Institute enhanced training activities for Colleges and Schools and their faculty in preparing for accreditation reviews. <p><u>On-Site Evaluation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Reengineer the on-site evaluation process to assure the quality, validity, relevance and utility of the information obtained and disseminated. 6. Increase Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) approach to the on-site evaluations, including post-visit surveys/evaluations by Colleges and Schools. 7. Examine the merits of alternative methods for on-site evaluations. 8. Increase pool of evaluation team members with emphasis on diversity in expertise, practice site, etc. 9. Develop and implement more effective training methods for evaluation team members. <p><u>Communications:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Clarify expectations and facilitate use of outcomes in the accreditation process. 11. Simplify and clarify ACPE documents and reports (i.e. ETRs, A&Rs, letters) by using clear language and consistent well-defined descriptors, etc. 12. Institute periodic communications to Deans to clarify accreditation issues <p><u>New Colleges/Schools of Pharmacy:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Review and strengthen policies and procedures, including eligibility criteria, for new Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy. 14. Provide increased structure and standardization (i.e. application form) for new Colleges and Schools.

CI 2	Goal 1	Strategic Actions
Professional Degree Program Accreditation Process	Simplify, clarify and improve the evaluation process for professional degree programs accredited by ACPE.	<p><u>Alternative Pathways:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Evaluate the current state and future direction of non-traditional pathways for the Doctor of Pharmacy program. 16. Develop mechanisms to better evaluate alternative methods for delivering professional education. <p><u>Accreditation Decision-Making Process</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Evaluate utilization of specialized or content/method ad hoc advisors/advisory committees to provide input regarding professional degree program accreditation process. 18. Develop quantitative measures to assess compliance with accreditation standards. 19. Develop means to measure the effectiveness of the accreditation process.
CI 2	Goal 2	Strategic Actions
Professional Degree Program Accreditation Process	Develop a system to review accreditation standards on an ongoing basis to account for changing environments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a system for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of standards and guidelines (e.g., as component of accreditation evaluation activities). 2. Plan next comprehensive review and revision of Standards 2000; this should occur somewhere in 2005-2006 range, after transition period is over and after all professional programs have been reviewed at least once against Standards 2000. 3. Monitor recognition criteria from the U.S. Department of Education for changes and new interpretations that affect the accreditation standards and ACPE policies and procedures. 4. Develop and implement methods to explore the changing environment with respect to health care and education to assure that these changes are appropriately reflected in the accreditation standards.

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CI 2	Goal 3	Strategic Actions
Professional Degree Program Accreditation Process	Encourage innovation in the accreditation process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and institute continuous quality improvement mechanisms. 2. Explore utilization of additional, optional (initially), accreditation activities (e.g., North Central Association's Academic Quality Improvement Project). 3. Explore utilization of additional objective (quantitative/standardized) measures to provide additional standardization in the accreditation process and facilitate continuous quality improvement (e.g., evaluate data from AACCP, NABP, and other sources, collect measures not collected by others, etc.). 4. Monitor other accrediting agencies to learn of additional successful accreditation practices.
CI 2	Goal 4	Strategic Actions
Professional Degree Program Accreditation Process	Encourage programs to design and evaluate innovative approaches to pharmaceutical education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a system to facilitate sharing of successful and unsuccessful approaches to meeting individual standards. 2. Develop mechanisms to allow different approaches to pharmaceutical education (e.g., distance education, asynchronous delivery, non-traditional pathways, etc.) within the accreditation process.

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CI 3	Goal 1	Strategic Actions
Relationships with Constituencies	Utilize appropriate communication strategies with various ACPE constituencies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and enhance communications with constituency organizations. 2. Improve the ACPE web site. 3. Improve use of electronic communications. 4. Develop publications to improve awareness of ACPE by constituents (i.e. pharmacists, pharmacy students and technicians).
CI 3	Goal 2	Strategic Actions
Relationships with Constituencies	Assure clarity and timeliness of communications.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop method to assure clarity of all accreditation-related communications from Board and staff. 2. Periodically evaluate the clarity and timeliness of written accreditation communications. 3. Assure that adequate personnel and technology resources are available to allow timely communications.
CI 3	Goal 3	Strategic Actions
Relationships with Constituencies	Maintain an open dialogue and develop partnerships on shared professional issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with NABP, state boards of pharmacy, other regulatory agencies and state educational authorities to continue to ensure quality pharmaceutical education as the underpinning of pharmacy licensure and re-licensure. 2. Collaborate with AACP, NABP, CE providers, Colleges and Schools and other constituents in identifying data that will allow enhanced objective evaluations of accreditation standards for professional programs and CE providers. 3. Maintain an open dialogue with all state, national and international pharmacy organizations regarding educational matters. 4. Actively participate in the Council on Credentialing in Pharmacy (CCP). 5. Attend Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) meetings.

ACPE

CI 4	Goal 1	Strategic Actions
Scope of Responsibilities and New Opportunities	Align ACPE's current scope of responsibilities with its new purpose statement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a list of ACPE's current scope of responsibilities. 2. Match list of current responsibilities to new purpose statement.
CI 4	Goal 2	Strategic Actions
Scope of Responsibilities and New Opportunities	Assess the environment and identify new opportunities that are consistent with the mission and resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize information already obtained from strategic planning survey or other sources describing interest for ACPE involvement in new opportunities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accreditation of pharmacy technician training programs. ▪ Accreditation of pharmacy technician continuing education providers ▪ Involvement in the accreditation processes of educational programs and professional development at the international level ▪ Involvement in research related to the field of accreditation 2. Design and implement a plan to further identify and redefine the needs and interests of constituents regarding potentially new initiatives (dialogues, surveys) where appropriate. 3. Summarize information obtained and validate proposed initiatives against the purpose and with input from constituencies. 4. Prioritize new initiatives in light of existing activities and adequacy of resources.
CI 4	Goal 3	Strategic Actions
Scope of Responsibilities and New Opportunities	For each new initiative establish a plan for implementation, assessment and continuous process improvement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop implementation plans for each new initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify constituencies who may be interested in collaboration on each new initiative. 2. Implement plan for each new initiative. 3. Develop plan for continuous process improvement and assessment of each initiative