



## ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

20 North Clark Street, Suite 2500 • Chicago, Illinois 60602-5109 • [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org)  
312/664-3575 • FAX 312/664-4652

February 17, 2006

Dear ACPE Stakeholder:

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is pleased to announce the release of the revised *Accreditation Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree*, adopted by the ACPE Board of Directors on January 15, 2006. The new standards and guidelines (“*Standards 2007*”) will be effective on **July 1, 2007**.

For ease of reference, the revised standards and guidelines are posted as Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat PDF versions on the ACPE website. Printed copies will be made available in the near future. ACPE would like to thank all those from the community of interest who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the revision of its accreditation standards and guidelines.

The release of “Standards 2007” brings to a conclusion a three-year revision exercise, initiated in January 2003 with the decision by the ACPE Board to revise the accreditation standards for Doctor of Pharmacy degree programs. In March 2003, ACPE announced the revision and issued its first “invitation to comment.” Over the ensuing three-year period, stakeholder input and feedback were solicited and many comments were received via written submissions, web-based surveys, ACPE-convened open hearings, ACPE participation in town hall meetings, and formal and informal interactions with stakeholders in pharmacy, other health professions, and the accreditation community. ACPE also undertook an extensive review of relevant literature and organizational policies. A broad-based focus group comprising experienced educators, administrators and practitioners from around the United States made an invaluable contribution to the exercise.

In determining what direction, focus and emphasis the revised standards and guidelines should take, the ACPE Board was strongly influenced by the profession-wide vision for pharmacy practice and education, environmental factors within pharmacy and the healthcare sector in general, developments in pharmacy education, regulation and technology, and the accreditation experience gained since the implementation of “Standards 2000.” Further detail regarding these factors and the revision process is provided in the *Preamble* to the Standards.

The overall philosophy of “Standards 2000” has been retained in “Standards 2007” without major modification. There are, however, some new requirements and expectations, and greater emphasis has been placed on several key areas based on stakeholder feedback. These issues are also highlighted in the *Preamble*. The term “*pharmaceutical care*” is no longer used in the revised standards and guidelines. This does not indicate a deviation from the vision for pharmacy practice embedded in “Standards 2000.” Rather, by using terms such as “*patient-centered care*” and “*medication therapy management*,” the standards and guidelines reflect contemporary terminology regarding the competencies of and services provided by pharmacists. Accordingly, the new wording should not require a fundamental change in the mission and goals of colleges and schools of pharmacy.

For ACPE, two of the goals of the revision were to simplify and clarify the expectation of the standards, and to provide additional guidance and direction where it had been requested by stakeholders or where ACPE considered it necessary based on its history and experience with accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy. Achieving these goals was addressed through reorganization and consolidation (from eight to six) of the major sections, re-ordering of the standards, clearer separation of standards and guidelines, adoption and consistent application of standardized terminology (such as “*must*” and “*should*”), and provision of expanded guidance and appendices where deemed appropriate. The text of the standards themselves, in general, has been consolidated, but there has been a corresponding increase in the number of guidelines.

Colleges and schools of pharmacy being evaluated by ACPE beginning in academic year 2007-2008 will be required to comply with the new standards and guidelines. Colleges and schools preparing self studies for an evaluation prior to 2007-2008, however, may *elect* to self-assess against the new standards and guidelines. An updated version of ACPE’s Self Study Guide - appropriate to “Standards 2007” - is under development and will be made available soon.

The ACPE Board has decided, henceforth, to separate the review and revision process for the guidelines from that of the standards. The standards collectively will be reviewed approximately every six to eight years, while the guidelines can be refined and improved as needed based on stakeholder feedback and experience. ACPE welcomes and invites ongoing stakeholder feedback regarding the standards and guidelines and a dedicated email mailbox ([standards@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:standards@acpe-accredit.org)) is available for this purpose. Such input will be systematically compiled and reviewed by ACPE. When ACPE deems that a revision of a guideline(s) is warranted, it will engage its stakeholders to provide opportunity for profession-wide input. When a new version of the standards and guidelines is published, all stakeholders will be advised and the new version number and changes made will be clearly stated.

The ACPE Board of Directors and Staff continue to strive to fulfill the mission of *assuring and advancing the quality of pharmacy education*, and look forward to working with the community of interest as these new standards and guidelines are implemented. Our mutual goal is to assure the optimal preparation of pharmacists for current and future practice, and ultimately to improve the healthcare outcomes of the patients and populations that they serve.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Jeffrey W. Wadelin  
Associate Executive Director, and  
Director, Professional Degree Program Accreditation  
[jwadelin@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:jwadelin@acpe-accredit.org)

Mike Rouse  
Assistant Executive Director  
International and Professional Affairs  
[mrouse@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:mrouse@acpe-accredit.org)