



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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Dear Pharmacy Deans,

As the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 national health crisis continue, we know there have been questions regarding whether flexibilities offered by ACPE will continue beyond December 31, 2020. As you are aware, ACPE is recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE). As such, ACPE's accreditation requirements and process must follow all USDE rules and regulations. Last Friday, the USDE published new guidance (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/11/2020-27042/federal-student-aid-programs-student-assistance-general-provisions-federal-perkins-loan-program>) that has extended its prior flexibilities from a deadline of December 31, 2020 to allowing them for the duration of the national emergency declaration and 180 days following the date on which the COVID-19 national emergency declaration is rescinded. Therefore the guidance that ACPE has provided in previous communications *will remain applicable through the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic school year.*

Schools may continue to use distance education without the normal ACPE approval process throughout spring 2021 with fall 2021 to be determined. ACPE will continue to conduct domestic site visits virtually in spring 2021. Fall site visit methodology will be determined at a later date. Of note, the USDE continues to require that ACPE perform a limited in-person verification site visit as soon as practicable after a virtual site visit.

This is our guidance as of now. It could change at any time given the fluidity of the situation. We will continue to update you periodically as the situation warrants. The ACPE staff are always available to discuss and work through any questions you may have. We want to be helpful and support your efforts in these turbulent times. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the ACPE staff.

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)