



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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September 29, 2020

Dear Pharmacy Deans,

The ACPE Board of Directors met last evening to consider the request from many pharmacy deans to suspend the requirement for the completion of the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) examination for the current academic year. As noted in Appendix 3 of Standards 2016, the results of the PCOA examination for students nearing completion of the didactic curriculum is required documentation for Standard 1.

Prior to the meeting, I received letters from numerous deans regarding the challenges programs are facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and requesting that the PCOA examination requirement be suspended for this academic year. I also received a letter from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Council of Deans (COD) requesting that the ACPE Board consider either waiving the PCOA or making the examination optional for the 2020-2021 academic year, based upon the results of an AACP survey completed by 97 deans.

In consideration of the many challenges brought on by the current pandemic to pharmacy students, faculty, and administrators, the ACPE Board has voted to make the administration of the PCOA examination optional to all accredited programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Schools will not be required to administer the PCOA exam this academic year unless they choose to do so.

The ACPE staff want to be helpful and support your efforts in these turbulent times. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or 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)