



# Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

## International Services Program

### Eligibility Criteria for International-Accreditation or International-Preaccreditation of a Professional Degree Program in Pharmacy by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

**Adopted July 29, 2020**

**Effective August 1, 2020**

The following text is summarized from ACPE's *Policies and Procedures for International-Accreditation and International-Preaccreditation of Professional Degree Programs in Pharmacy in Countries other than the United States and its Territories* (adopted June 2012; latest revision effective January 1, 2023) and, in addition, states the current position of the ACPE Board with respect to eligible programs. Please refer to the Policies and Procedures document for the full text of the policies and procedures (<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/ISP/PoliciesandProcedures.pdf>).

In order to be eligible to apply for and be granted International-Preaccreditation, initial International-Accreditation, or continued International-Accreditation, the professional degree program in pharmacy (see *Notes below*) and/or the school<sup>2</sup> or university offering the program must meet the following criteria:

- The program must be based outside the United States of America (USA) and its territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands)
- The program must be offered by an independent school of pharmacy or a school of pharmacy within a university
- If an entry-level degree program, the program must be a minimum of four (4) academic years in length
- The school or university must be a postsecondary educational institution that is regularly incorporated, legally empowered, and authorized to award such a degree in accordance with national laws and regulations<sup>3</sup>
- The institutional environment or setting for the professional degree program must be equivalent to a university and include a mission that encompasses professional education, scholarship, research, and service

- The school of pharmacy or university must have graduated at least one class of students from the professional degree program for which International-Accreditation is being applied by the time International-Accreditation is granted
- If national or state/provincial systems for institutional and/or programmatic accreditation are available to the school and institution at the time of application for International-Accreditation, the school, institution and/or program must be:
  - accredited /or
  - actively pursuing such accreditation and achieve such accreditation within three (3) years<sup>a</sup> of being granted International-Accreditation by ACPE

provided that ACPE may exempt the program from the requirement to achieve national programmatic accreditation if the program has the option to obtain either international or national programmatic accreditation pursuant to relevant law.

- If national or state/provincial systems for institutional and/or programmatic accreditation become available to the school and institution after the time of application for International-Accreditation, ACPE requires that the school, institution and/or program actively pursues such accreditation and becomes accredited within a period of time deemed acceptable by the Board; provided that ACPE may exempt the program from the requirement to achieve national programmatic accreditation if the program has the option to obtain either international or national programmatic accreditation pursuant to relevant law.

**The ACPE Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the International Commission, has made a decision that, until further notice, for entry-level programs, ACPE will only accept applications for International-Accreditation and International-Preaccreditation for degree programs that are a minimum of four academic years in length. Postgraduate professional degree programs, such as Post-BS PharmD and nontraditional PharmD programs, will be considered by the Board, but on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, for programs not taught in English, ACPE will assess, on a case-by-case basis, its ability to comprehensively evaluate on an ongoing basis compliance of the program with ACPE's**

---

<sup>a</sup> Note: In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Board, this period may be extended, if evidence is provided that the failure to achieve accreditation was not within the control of the school and/or university.

**International-Accreditation Quality Criteria and Policies and Procedures. The Board may reconsider these positions in the future.**

Notes:

1. ACPE defines a Professional Degree Program in pharmacy as follows: A postsecondary academic degree program offered at an institution of higher education and designed to prepare graduates to practice as a pharmacist. Professional degree programs may be entry-level or postgraduate programs, and must be recognized as a professional qualification or additional professional qualification in the relevant jurisdiction's register for pharmacists.
2. ACPE's International-Accreditation Policies and Procedures list several circumstances that may prevent it from accepting an application for International-Preaccreditation, initial International-Accreditation, or continued International-Accreditation from a degree program that meets the above-listed criteria. Please refer to Paragraph 6 of the Policies and Procedures document.
3. The term "school of pharmacy" is generally used in ACPE's International-Accreditation documents. Similar terms that may apply equally include college, faculty, and department.
4. ACPE acknowledges that structures and systems for higher education differ from country to country. ACPE will evaluate the organizational and academic structure of the school of pharmacy and the university in the context of the national structure and system for higher education.