



Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

International Services Program

Eligibility Criteria for Certification of a Professional Degree Program in Pharmacy by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

Adopted January 2015

The following text is summarized from ACPE's *Policies and Procedures for Certification of Professional Degree Programs in Pharmacy in Countries other than the United States and its Territories* (adopted June 2012; latest revision January 2015). Please refer to the 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 initial or continued certification, the professional degree program in pharmacy and/or the school² 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
- 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 regulations³
- 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 must have graduated at least one class of students from the professional degree program for which certification is being applied
- 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 certification, the school, institution and/or program must be:
 - accredited /or

- actively pursuing such accreditation and achieve such accreditation within three (3) years^a of being granted certification by ACPE
- 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 certification, 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.

The ACPE Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the International Commission, has made a decision that, until further notice, ACPE will only accept applications for certification for programs that are a minimum of four academic years in length. 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 Certification Quality Criteria and Policies and Procedures. The Board may reconsider these positions in the future.

Notes:

1. ACPE's Certification Policies and Procedures list several circumstances that may prevent it from accepting an application for initial or continued certification from a degree program that meets the above-listed criteria. Please refer to Paragraph 6 of the Policies and Procedures document.
2. The term "school of pharmacy" is generally used in ACPE's certification documents. Similar terms that may apply equally include college, faculty, and department.
3. 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.

^a 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.