ACPE’s International Services Program (ISP)

Accreditation as a Mechanism for Assuring the Quality of Pharmacy Education

Jeffrey W. Wadelin, PhD
Associate Executive Director for ACPE
ACPE History & Governance

• Founded in 1932 for accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy by:
  – National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) (regulators)
  – American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) (educators)
  – American Pharmacists Association (APhA) (practitioners)

• 10-member Board of Directors; three appointees each from NABP, AACP, APhA; one from American Council on Education
Accreditation in Pharmacy

• Public recognition accorded by a reliable authority to professional education programs or continuing education providers judged to meet established qualifications and educational standards
• Determined on the basis of initial and periodic evaluation
• Listing of accredited programs and providers maintained on web site
Oversight of Higher Education in the USA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RECOGNIZE

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITOR

STATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITOR

DEGREE PROGRAM IN COLLEGE OR SCHOOL

ACCREDIT

ACCREDIT
Oversight of Higher Education in Other Countries

GOVERNMENT

QUALITY ASSURANCE/ACCREDITATION

UNIVERSITY

OTHER AUTHORITY?

AUTHORIZE TO AWARD DEGREE

DEGREE PROGRAM IN FACULTY OR SCHOOL
Emerging Trend Internationally

GOVERNMENT

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITOR

PROGRAMMATIC ACCREDITOR

UNIVERSITY

DEGREE PROGRAM IN COLLEGE OR SCHOOL

OTHER AUTHORITY

AUTHORIZE TO AWARD DEGREE

Or combined function

ACCREDIT

ACCREDIT

ACCREDIT

ACcreditation Council for PHarmacy Education
ACPE International Services

• Long history of collaboration with other countries
• Assist international pharmacy stakeholders
  – Quality assurance/advancement of education
  – Provide consultancy and training upon request
  – Involve US and international consultants from the pharmacy academic and practice communities
  – Develop quality criteria (“standards”) that may be voluntarily used by degree programs outside of the United States
• General oversight by International Commission; all decisions by ACPE Board of Directors
Vision and Mission

**Vision:** Quality-assured pharmacy education and training prepares graduates throughout the world for expanded roles that optimize safe and effective medication use and improve patient care.

**Mission:** Promote, assure, and advance the quality of pharmacy education internationally to improve patient care through safe and effective medication use.
Mission Stated Differently

Quality assurance for quality improvement”

or

“Quality improvement through quality assurance”
ISP Services

- Certification of professional degree programs based on Quality Criteria and Policies and Procedures
- Consultation (national, institutional)
- Workshops and training programs
- Longer-term projects (e.g. with national governments)
International Commission

US-based Commissioners

- Indra K. Reddy
- Anthony K. Wutoh
- Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner
- Jannet M. Carmichael

International Commissioners

- Abeer Alghananeem (Jordan)
- Yousif A. Asiri (Saudi Arabia)
- Bhojraj Suresh (India)
- Yen Huei (Tony) Tarn (Taiwan)

ACPE Board Liaison

- Martha M. Rumore (USA)
International Services Program Advisory Group (ISPAG)

- 22 ISPAG members from 20 countries
- Members of ISPAG selected to provide broad geographic and cultural diversity
- ISPAG members provide feedback, ideas, and recommendations to the ACPE Board via the International Commission
Quality Advancement

Quality Assurance
ACPE Standards
Standardization
Consistency

Program/Provider-driven
ACPE-encouraged
Innovation
Individuality
Accreditation Expectations

• Accredited educational institutions are increasingly expected and required to **provide more information**, including student performance data, to the public; i.e., greater transparency

• There should be an **opportunity for all key stakeholders to provide input** in the certification (self-study) process, e.g., academic staff, students, preceptors, practitioners, regulators, public
Accreditation Expectations

• Development of a **culture of assessment** (measuring outcomes), self-assessment (achievement of all mission-related goals), and **continuous quality improvement** (CQI)

• **Self-identification of areas of non-compliance** and other areas needing improvement; **commitment to resolution** of areas of non-compliance in a timely fashion (see also Decision Tree)
Certification
Purpose of Certification

• Provide a basis for quality assurance
• Provide a professional judgment of the quality of the professional degree program
• Encourage and facilitate continued improvement of certified programs

Certification concerns itself with both quality assurance and quality improvement
Guiding Principles

• Certification applies only to professional degree programs outside the United States and its territories

• The primary purpose of ACPE’s certification program is to support schools of pharmacy outside the United States in their quality assurance and improvement efforts.

• The certification process is not designed to grant eligibility for licensure or registration to practice as a pharmacist in any jurisdiction
Guiding Principles

• The intent is not to impose other countries’ systems and models for pharmacy education and quality assurance on other countries

• The certification program is to help assure that professional degree programs are designed and implemented in accordance with quality principles and criteria that have been developed through a broad-based, transnational consensus process

• A program’s compliance will be evaluated in the context of the health and education systems, government structures, regulation, language and culture of the school or institution’s country
Certification Outcomes

• Certification
• Provisional Certification
• Revise and Resubmit
• Denial (*unlikely to be used*)
• Other?
Fees and Other Costs for Certification
New Fee Structure 2016

• Tiered Fee Structure based on World Bank country classifications
• Three tiers: 100%, 85%, 65%
• List of country classifications posted on ACPE website
Application Process
SMART Pharmacy Program

• SMART is CPD-based and designed to set objectives for improvement that are:
  • Specific
  • Measurable
  • Achievable
  • Relevant
  • Timed

• Learn Today – Apply Tomorrow

• Improve pharmacist competence, pharmacy practice, patient care
SMART Pharmacy Program is designed to be a sustainable, evidence-based educational initiative with all elements of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Cycle, including application and impact on everyday pharmacy practice.
What Gets Measured Gets Done!

Many countries; no expectation or requirement, therefore, no meaningful participation

Most countries; most professions (hours/credits)

Most CE providers

Some CE providers

SMART Pharmacy Program now

Future?
Contact ACPE

- By phone: +1 (312) 664-3575 (ACPE general line)
- By fax: +1 (866) 228-2631
- By e-mail:
  - international@acpe-accredit.org
- Web site: https://www.acpe-accredit.org/international-services-program/
- By mail:
  - 190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 2850
    Chicago, Illinois 60603-3410
    USA
- Follow ISP on Facebook and Twitter