



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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June 21, 2021

Dear Pharmacy Dean:

The ACPE Board of Directors met last week and I would like to share items that may be of interest to you.

In consideration of the many continuing challenges brought on by the current pandemic to pharmacy students, faculty, and administrators, the ACPE Board has voted to continue to allow the administration of the PCOA examination to be optional for all accredited programs for the 2021-2022 academic year. Schools will not be required to administer the PCOA exam during the upcoming academic year unless they choose to do so.

I am happy to announce that after a year-long process, the ACPE Bylaws have been revised and modernized. The revised Bylaws move ACPE toward nonprofit governance best practices. The major changes to the Bylaws include a change in the length of a term for Board members from 6 years to 3 years and updated term limits from unlimited to a limit of 3 consecutive terms (9 years). Term limits promote the infusion of new ideas and perspectives to the organization, provide a built-in balance of continuity and turnover, and prevent stagnation or loss of engagement and are a nonprofit governance best practice. The revision includes a transition period that would provide each current director with eligibility to be reappointed to one additional three-year team, even if they are currently in their third term. Another area that was revised was qualifications for appointees to the Board of Directors. The changes made are intended to increase consistency across appointing organizations while also articulating board diversity goals for the Board. All appointees will be required to complete Board training and comply with ACPE's conflict of interest policies.

The Board of Directors reviewed the current fee structures for our various accreditation and certification activities. Given that many of our constituencies have been impacted by the pandemic, the Board voted to maintain our fee structure at current levels with no increase. For colleges and schools in the US, we will continue our 30% reduction in published fees for virtual site visits. The reduced fee includes the on-site verification visit when required by the US Department of Education.

As announced in January, the ACPE Board approved a timeline leading to a revision of the ACPE Standards targeted for implementation in 2025. The timeline provides for many opportunities for input from the Academy and others. We are currently accepting comments on additions, deletions, and suggested modifications to the next set of PharmD accreditation standards. A tool for participating in this call for input and comments is found here: https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/standards_revision. This link will remain open through 2021. ACPE will also be holding open hearings on standards revision at several national meetings including the AACP Annual Meeting on July 20th at 10:15am (CDT). I encourage all of you to take advantage of these opportunities and others to participate in the standards revision process.

ACPE is the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE also offers evaluation and certification of professional degree programs internationally and with ASHP accredits pharmacy technician education and training programs.

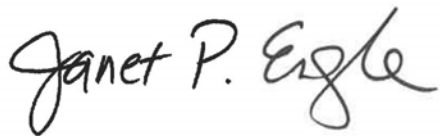
Finally, I am pleased to report that the ACPE Board of Directors Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force has been continuing their work. The Task Force has asked staff to collect additional data from accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy in an effort to understand the current policies or practices concerning DEI at Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy, and to inform our thoughts on how to address DEI in the Standards revision process. Three questions will be added to ACPE's annual job placement survey distributed to the academy each summer that will help us collect this data.

In January, the Board adopted a document developed by the ACPE Continuing Pharmacy Education Commission entitled, "ACPE Guidance to ACPE-accredited CE Providers to Incorporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in CE Activities. This document may be found on the ACPE website at: https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/ACPE_CE_Guidance_Diversity_Equity_Inclusion_Jan_2021_Final.pdf Providers have been encouraged to send examples of how they incorporated principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their CE activities. Submitted examples are posted to ACPE's website at: <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/continue-education-diversity-equity-inclusion/> with the goal of sharing practices with ACPE accredited providers.

Other actions by the Board will be communicated in the Report of Proceedings which will be published shortly.

If you have any questions regarding the items in this letter, please feel free to contact us at: info@acpe-accredit.org.

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)