



# ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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June 26, 2024

Dear Pharmacy Dean:

The ACPE Board of Directors met in June and I would like to share some items from the meeting that may be of interest to you.

## Standards 2025

ACPE will release the final version of Standards 2025 on July 1, 2024. The ACPE Board of Directors and Staff genuinely appreciate all of the feedback we received on the draft version of the Standards. The Board and Staff reviewed each comment and suggestion we received to arrive at the final version of Standards 2025 that will be released on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all who participated in our nine town hall meetings, both live and virtually, as well as to those who submitted written comments.

## Job Placement and Gainful Employment

You will be receiving ACPE's annual request to complete the Job Placement and Gainful Employment for the previous graduating class (i.e., Class of 2023). This request allows ACPE to meet a data-reporting requirement of the US Department of Education. Historically, 100% of ACPE accredited Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy have provided this data. Thank you in advance for your attention to this survey so we can maintain our stellar record of reporting. Watch for that email and please forward as needed to others in your organization for a response. Or, if you prefer, you can complete the survey now at the below link:

Job Placement Survey link: [https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/job\\_placement\\_gainful\\_employment\\_survey\\_and\\_disclosure\\_of\\_program\\_outcomes\\_by\\_20222023](https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/job_placement_gainful_employment_survey_and_disclosure_of_program_outcomes_by_20222023)

## Applications and Enrollment

The Board is aware of recent national declines in applications to pharmacy programs which have contributed to declines in enrollment at numerous programs. At the June 2024, ACPE Board meeting, the Board identified a number of programs that would have been flagged by ACPE's annual monitoring policy for a change in first professional year enrollment larger than 20%. The Board will continue to monitor enrollment but is opting not to request individualized responses from each program regarding efforts to enhance recruitment at this time. The Board stresses the need to ensure resources are maintained to meet program needs and the expectations of ACPE's Accreditation Standards. The Board reiterates the expectations outlined in the Accreditation Standards including:

- Standard 10, Key Element 10.6: All courses in the curriculum are taught by individuals with academic credentials and expertise that are explicitly linked to their teaching responsibilities.
- Standard 18: The college or school has a cohort of faculty and staff with the qualifications and experience needed to effectively deliver and evaluate the professional degree program.

*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.*

- Standard 19: Faculty and staff have academic and professional credentials and expertise commensurate with their responsibilities to the professional program and their academic rank. The Board reminds programs that failure to ensure adequate depth and breadth of the cohort of faculty may lead to instances where programs are out of compliance with ACPE's Accreditation Standards.

### Adjunct Faculty

There was significant conversation by the Board concerning the use of adjunct faculty to replace core faculty positions. Data indicate that the number of core faculty positions in pharmacy programs is decreasing while the use of adjunct faculty is increasing. It has been noted that the adjunct faculty generally are not integrated in the program, may not have input into curriculum decisions, may lack skills in the area of student assessment and test preparation, do not participate in student advising, may not be available for on campus meetings with students, and are not consistently supported for participation in professional organizations among multiple other concerns. The ACPE Board of Directors will be requesting data from AACP to further monitor faculty composition.

### Annual Monitoring - NAPLEX

As you may recall, in January 2024, the Board acted to maintain ACPE's NAPLEX score benchmark of two standard deviations below the national average for first-time test takers. As outlined in the Policy, ACPE will continue to send letters requesting that programs identify the cause of negative changes or trends in NAPLEX® outcomes and provide action plans for correcting the negative trends.

In addition, as of the June 2024 meeting, the Board will begin reviewing trends in the overall number of first-time test takers failing the NAPLEX examination at each program. At the June meeting, programs were flagged that had a high number of failures (defined as 30 or more first-time test takers not passing the exam), but still had an overall first-time passing rate above the two standard deviation threshold. This trigger could indicate potential problems regarding the quality of the professional degree program, the nature of which must be identified by the program. In this regard, in alignment with ACPE Policy 11.6.1.b, while a formal response will not be requested at this time; the Board has actioned the staff to send a letter encouraging the program to conduct a root cause analysis to identify factors contributing to the observed number of first-time test takers not passing the examination. Corrective measures should be implemented to reduce the number of first-time test takers not passing the examination. In accordance with ACPE's Policy, the Board will continue to monitor the number of first-time test takers successfully passing the examination.

### Self-Study Workshop

ACPE will be offering its annual Self-Study Workshop on July 29-30, in our Chicago office. The workshop will review the expectations for self-studies using Standards 2025, discuss the scoring "rubric" both Colleges/Schools and on-site evaluators use in their evaluations, and highlight necessary appendices and other documents that should be included in the report or made available to the on-site team. This session is intended to assist programs that have a comprehensive on-site evaluation during academic years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, and priority will be given to registrants from those programs. Seating is

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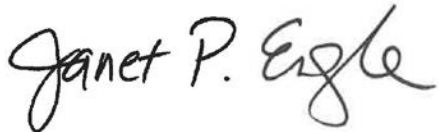
limited to 72 participants and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis, based on priority listed above and is limited to 3 participants per institution. More information on registration can be found here: <https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/72024sswksshop>. The deadline to register is July 1, 2024.

### **Update on ACPE Fees**

The ACPE staff recommended, and the ACPE Board of Directors approved, no increase in fees for Colleges and Schools for 2025.

ACPE staff are available to answer any questions you have about these or any other items. You can reach the colleges/school team via email at: [csinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:csinfo@acpe-accredit.org) or the CE team at: [ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org). In addition, feel free to reach out to Greg Boyer, Mary Kiersma, Dawn Zarembski, Jacob Gettig, Dimitra Travlos, Kimberly Catledge, Logan Murry, or me directly.

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)

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