



## ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

190 S. LaSalle Street – Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60603-4810 | [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org)

P: 312/664-3575 | F: 866/228-2631 | E: [jengle@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:jengle@acpe-accredit.org)

February 7, 2024

Dear Pharmacy Dean:

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

### **Change in Annual Monitoring**

The ACPE Board of Directors authorized changes to the annual monitoring policy, 11.6 (<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CS PoliciesandProceduresJanuary2024.pdf>).

Following analysis of ACPE's process for monitoring NAPLEX® outcomes, the Board has acted to maintain ACPE's 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 changes or trends. Beginning in June 2024, the Board will begin looking at trends in the overall number of first-time test takers failing the NAPLEX examination at each program. Programs with a large number of failures, yet still having an overall passing rate above the two standard deviation threshold, may be asked to identify the causes of such failures and provide action plans for reducing the number of first-time test takers failing the examination.

Beginning in July 2025, with release of Standards 2025, the Board has approved actions to be taken based on the number of times a program falls below the two standard deviation (2SD) benchmark.

The specifics of the policy are as follows:

Within any seven-year period:

- 1st year passing rate below 2SD: letter sent requiring root cause analysis for poor performance and action plan for improvement
- 2nd year passing rate below 2SD: focused on-site evaluation to explore program's compliance with accreditation standards
- 3rd year passing rate below 2SD: program requested to meet with ACPE Board of Directors
- 4th year passing rate below 2SD: program subject to probationary action
- 5th year passing rate below 2SD: program subject to withdrawal of accreditation

In addition, as part of ACPE's On-Time Graduation Rate Monitoring policy, programs exceeding ACPE's benchmark of 24% attrition will be requested to provide an update on the status of students with delayed graduation.

### **Adverse Action Definition**

The ACPE Board of Directors approved an update to Section 13 of the Policies and Procedures to modify the definition of an adverse action. To align with USDE policy, Accredited with Probation is no longer

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considered an adverse action, which removes the opportunity for appeal. The updated manual can be found on the ACPE website at: <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CSPoliciesandProceduresJanuary2024.pdf>.

### **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 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/72024sswshop>.

### **New ACPE Officers**

The ACPE Board of Directors has elected the following as members of the ACPE Executive Committee for the 2024-2025 terms of office.

President: Cindy D. Stowe, BS, PharmD

Vice President: LuGina Mendez-Harper, PharmD

Treasurer: Kimberly S. Croley, PharmD, BCGP, FASCP, FAPhA

### **Continuing Pharmacy Education**

The January 2024 ACPE Board of Directors and CPE Commission approved the following guidance for ACPE-accredited providers:

#### **ACPE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The ACPE Board of Directors adopted an updated 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." For more information, please click [here](#).

#### **Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become very prominent in the world of education. ACPE staff explored the impact of AI on continuing education activities. To identify the factors and experience of ACPE-accredited CE providers, ACPE staff distributed a survey to identify the impact of AI on continuing education programs. Results of the survey, a review of the literature, and discussion at the CPE Commission and the Board of Directors resulted in guidance for ACPE-accredited providers. For more information, please click [here](#).

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### Digital Badges

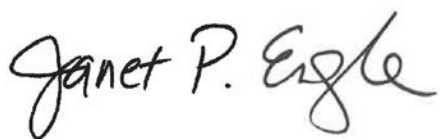
ACPE-accredited providers and the pharmacy profession have asked ACPE to explore the development of digital badges and/or guidance related to digital badging. The ACPE Commission and Board of Directors have approved guidance related to the development of digital badges. For more information, please click [here](#).

### Certificate Programs

ACPE-accredited providers who use the term Certificate Program where the program does not meet the ACPE Standards and Policies must include a disclaimer: 'This is not an ACPE-defined Certificate Program; learners who complete this course will receive ACPE CPE credit but will not be awarded completion of a Certificate Program.'

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)