



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

190 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 3000 Chicago, Illinois 60603-3499 | www.acpe-accredit.org

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July 6, 2023

Dear Pharmacy Dean:

The ACPE Board of Directors recently met in June, 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 a change to the annual monitoring policy, 11.6.3 (<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CSPoliciesandProceduresJune2023.pdf>). ACPE will no longer monitor dismissals, withdrawals and delayed progression individually. ACPE will continue to monitor total attrition. Total attrition includes the total number of students who did not graduate on time for any reason, which includes delayed graduation, academic dismissal, and withdrawal from the program. If total attrition is greater than or equal to 24% of the matriculating class size, a letter will be sent to the program requesting that it identify the cause of and provide an action plan for correcting any negative changes or trends. At the Board's discretion, such a letter will not be required if the ACPE Board has received prior information provided by the program that adequately addresses the matter. More details can be found in the policies and procedures document (link provided above).

The ACPE Board of Directors will continue to review annual monitoring requirements at the next Board meeting in January 2024. To assist in their deliberations, the Board has asked ACPE staff to obtain graduation data for 1.5 times (150%) of the program length for the last 3 years. This data will be collected via the ACPE job placement/gainful employment survey that will be sent to programs later this month.

Standards Revision Update

The ACPE Board of Directors has been working on drafting Standards 2025. All comments received via the online survey, letters, meetings, and email were discussed as part of the standards revision process. The Board will review the final draft of Standards 2025 at the January 2024 meeting and will release the draft copy to the public for comment early in February 2024. The Board will review all comments received on the draft and finalize the Standards for release on July 1, 2024, with implementation of the new Standards on July 1, 2025. This timeframe will allow 12 months between the release of the new standards and their implementation. A new rubric to support Standards 2025 will also be released in January 2024. With the release of Standards 2025, the use of the current AACP Assessment and Accreditation Management System (AAMS) will be discontinued as the platform for self-studies. It will be replaced by the ACPE Self-Study Reporting System. More information about this tool will be provided closer to the launch of the new Standards.

Self-Study Workshop

ACPE will be offering its annual Self-Study Workshop on August 8-9, 2023, in our Chicago office. The workshop will review the expectations for self-studies, discuss the scoring "rubric" both

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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 60 and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis, based on priority listed above and is limited to 3 participants per institution. To register go to: <https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/82023sswshop>. The deadline to register is July 17th.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The ACPE Board of Directors has approved criteria for organizations to develop CPD programs and a framework to award CPD units for implementation in January 2024. The Continuing Education staff along with the CPD Advisory Committee will be conducting education later this summer and in the fall on CPD policies, procedures, a framework to award CPD units used for credit, and accreditation pathways for CPD programs. Specific details will be posted on ACPE's CPD website soon: <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/continuing-professional-development/>.

Update on ACPE Fees

The ACPE Board of Directors approved a modest increase of 3% in ACPE fees to colleges and schools beginning in 2024. ACPE fees have not been increased since 2020. In addition, in 2020, there was a 30% reduction in fees for visits done virtually and that reduction also included the verification visit. As you are aware, flight and hotel costs have increased exponentially since the pandemic so there was a need to increase fees for 2024. Continuing education fees will also be increased 3% for 2024. Similar to colleges/schools, there has been no increase in CE fees since 2020.

National Emergency and Distance Education

On April 10, 2023, President Biden signed a resolution ending the National Emergency (NE) as of that date. Please note that this date is separate from Public Health Emergency (PHE), which expired on May 11, 2023. Flexibilities in place during the national emergency permitted ACPE to waive the review and approval of distance education to allow institutions to quickly switch to distance learning so as to enable currently enrolled students to continue their studies. In accordance with the end of the National Emergency, the waivers on distance education will end on October 7, 2023 (180 days after the end of the National Emergency on April 10, 2023). (<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-05-18/accreditation-and-eligibility-requirements-distance-education>)

This means that as of October 7, 2023, no flexibilities regarding online education are in place. It is highly recommended that you contact ACPE staff now to discuss the various requirements if you plan to offer

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distance education that is greater than 25% of your didactic curriculum rather than wait until the end of the waiver period. ACPE policies require the following: if distance education is used to deliver more than 25% of the didactic courses, a program will need to submit a substantive change. If a program plans to deliver 50% or more of the didactic courses via distance education, then a comprehensive academic plan (as described in ACPE's policies and procedures) will also need to be submitted. ACPE requires *one-year advance notice* for the addition of a distance campus or the implementation of distance education for an existing college or school. This notification is required to allow ACPE sufficient time to conduct the evaluation needed to ensure readiness and continued compliance with the accreditation standards. Failure to comply with the one-year notice requirement constitutes grounds for review and potential adverse accreditation actions.

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 or the CE team at: 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet P. Engle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet P. Engle, PharmD, PhD (Hon), FAPhA, FCCP, FNAP
Executive Director

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