



## ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

190 S. LaSalle Street – Suite 2850 Chicago, Illinois 60603-4810 | [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org)

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January 26, 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 mid-December, ACPE received a communication from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) telling us that there will be changes to the NAPLEX exam taking effect on January 18, 2021. These modifications included changes to the reporting of results for the NAPLEX and MPJE exams to a pass/fail result. NABP let us know that they will no longer provide a numerical score to the candidates and candidate waiver requests will be eliminated.

To respond to this change in procedure from NABP, the ACPE Board of Directors has voted to approve modifying our Policies and Procedures ([https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CS\\_PoliciesAndProceduresJanuary2021.pdf](https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CS_PoliciesAndProceduresJanuary2021.pdf)) to eliminate section 11.6.1.b (below).

*11.6.1.b. A letter will be sent to a program whose graduates obtain a Mean scaled Score on the NAPLEX® lower than that represented by at least two standard deviations below the average obtained by all candidates taking that examination. This shall apply only to first-time examination candidates from ACPE-accredited programs. Both calendar year and academic year data are used in this analysis.*

ACPE will no longer monitor mean scaled scores on the NAPLEX exam as they will no longer be reported by NABP. However, ACPE will continue to monitor a program's percentage pass rates on the NAPLEX exam as we have in the past. ACPE staff will be revising the various rubrics used for self-studies and by the site teams to reflect this change.

With the elimination of policy 11.6.1b, the changes that NABP have implemented regarding NAPLEX scoring will not affect what is required by ACPE. Keep in mind that ACPE will only ask programs to be accountable for the available data that they receive from NABP.

During last week's meeting, 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. In the near future, ACPE staff will send out more detailed information about the revision.

I am pleased to report that the ACPE Board of Directors appointed an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Board. One of the charges of the Subcommittee is to review and update "Guidance for the Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree" ("Guidance for Standards 2016") document with regard to equity, diversity and inclusion. This will be done ahead of the revision to Standards 2016. In addition, the Board adopted a document developed by the ACPE Continuing Pharmacy Education Commission

*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.*



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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](https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/ACPE_CE_Guidance_Diversity_Equity_Inclusion_Jan_2021_Final.pdf)

Over the last year, ACPE engaged three groups of individuals to participate in a review of the Standards 2016 Self-Assessment Instrument (Rubric), uploads included in the Rubric, and suggested questions (“Blue Book”) ACPE currently utilizes for the evaluation visits. Each group (curriculum, assessment, experiential education) which included a total of 54 individuals met virtually over a two-day period with representatives from ACPE in early fall. Each Task Force concluded their work and recommendations in December 2020. I am happy to report that the ACPE Board of Directors approved their recommendations. Suggested “Blue Book” questions will be incorporated and included starting with the spring 2021 visit cycle. Changes made in the Rubric that include elimination of numerous required uploads will be incorporated in the ACPE documents and AAMS for use during the spring 2022 visit cycle and beyond. The updated rubric (Rubric 2016 V2.0) may be found on the ACPE website at:

<https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/Rubric2016Guidelines2.0bUpdate2021.pdf>. The updated suggested “Blue Book” questions can be found on the ACPE website at: <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/GuidelinesAndSuggestedQuestionsForTeamMembersBLUEBOOKJan2021.pdf>.

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](mailto: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)