



Accreditation Review Commission on Education  
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

## Standards Clarifications, 4<sup>th</sup> edition July 2010

**Note the Clarifications below, which are due to inadvertent omissions and typographical errors**

### ELIGIBILITY

The ARC-PA accredits only qualified PA programs offered by, or located within institutions chartered by and physically located within, the *United States* and where students are geographically located within the *United States* for their education.

A single institution *must* be clearly identified as the sponsor of the program and *must* be authorized under applicable law to provide a program of post secondary education. It *must* be accredited by a recognized regional accrediting agency<sup>1</sup> and *must* be authorized by this agency to confer upon graduates of the PA program a baccalaureate or graduate degree.<sup>2</sup>

Sponsoring institutions applying for provisional accreditation of a new PA program *must* be accredited by, and in good standing with, a recognized regional accrediting agency and *must* be authorized by that agency to confer upon graduates of the PA program a graduate degree.

Programs accredited prior to 2013 that do not currently offer a graduate degree *must* transition to conferring a graduate degree, which *should* be awarded by the sponsoring institution, upon all PA students who matriculate into the program after 2020.

Institutions planning to develop a program and apply for provisional accreditation which do not meet these eligibility requirements will not be considered by the ARC-PA.

**CLARIFICATION:** Footnote # 2 had a typographical error. The phrase “baccalaureate **or** graduate degree” which is correct in the second paragraph of the Eligibility section was incorrect in the footnote which read “baccalaureate **to** graduate degree” and has now been corrected to read “baccalaureate **or** graduate degree.”

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### Program Director

A2.06 The program director *must* be a PA or a physician.<sup>3</sup>

a) If the program director is a PA, s/he *must* hold current *NCCPA* certification.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Programs sponsored by the military branches of the federal government are exempt from this regional accreditation requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Programs sponsored by the military branches of the federal government or accredited prior to 1/1/06 are not required to confer graduates of the PA program a baccalaureate **or** graduate degree.

<sup>3</sup> Programs accredited prior to 9/1/10 will be held to this standard only when a new program director is appointed.



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- b) If the program director is a physician, s/he *must* hold current licensure as an allopathic or osteopathic physician in the state in which the program exists and *must* be certified by an ABMS- or AOA-approved specialty board.<sup>4</sup>

**CLARIFICATION:** Footnote #3 which reads “Programs accredited prior to 9/1/10 will be held to this standard only when a new program director is appointed” was inadvertently omitted from the stem of standard A2.06. This footnote applies to the stem and to sub letter a) and is now corrected. Footnote #4 is correct.

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A2.07 The program director *must* not be the medical director.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Standard A2.07 is correct as printed and has no footnote.

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<sup>4</sup> Physician program directors appointed before 3/1/06 *should* be board certified, those appointed on or after 3/1/06 *must* be board certified.