Standards Clarifying Changes

Update from the March 2018 Commission Meeting!

At the March 2018 meeting, the commission made clarifying changes to the B3.02 and B3.03 Standards. These clarifications provide additional information to guide programs in demonstrating compliance but do not place any new requirements on the program.

The B3.02 and B3.03 standards address the program curriculum related to Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs).

Unlike the didactic year, programs do not have direct control over what their students will be exposed to each day of their SCPEs. Therefore, the program needs to have clear expectations for the students and preceptors. Although each student’s experiences will vary, the program must outline the learning outcomes it expects every student to obtain at the end of SCPEs. By assessing that each student has acquired the program’s identified learning outcomes, the program can assure that each student has acquired the appropriate clinical education despite the varying day to day clinical exposures.

The clarifying changes outlined below replaces the undefined term “expectations” with the defined term (from the Standards Glossary), “learning outcomes”. Learning outcomes is defined as the knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, and clinical reasoning and problem solving abilities that have been attained at the completion of a curricular component, course or program. Using “meet the program’s learning outcomes” simplifies the standard as it is equivalent to previous standard verbiage “meet the program expectations and acquire the competencies”. In addition, the word “all” was added to the standard to make it clear that program must demonstrate compliance for all students.

Claritying changes provide guiding information and do not place any new requirements on the program.

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Standard Clarifying Changes (cont’d)

Programs will need to provide students with their learning outcomes for the clinical year. They must include the knowledge, interpersonal, clinical and technical skills, professional behaviors, clinical reasoning and problem solving abilities needed for entry into clinical PA practice in preventive, emergent, acute and chronic patient encounters, care across the life span, and care of patients in women’s health, general surgery and behavioral health as identified in the standards. The program must also show that all students meet the program’s expected learning outcomes. This is demonstrated by some means of assessment that parallels the expected learning outcomes of the program.

The new version of the Standards is available on the ARC-PA website. Applications not yet sent to programs will include the changes and ask programs to include the learning outcomes related to each standard in an appendix.

Programs that are working on current applications will be asked to address the changes, if applicable to the program, at the time of their site visits.

Clarified B3.02 Standard

Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable all students to meet the program’s learning outcomes expected of students, to include preventive, emergent, acute, and chronic patient encounters.

Clarified B3.03 Standard

Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable all students to meet the program’s learning outcomes expected of students, for patients seeking:

a) medical care across the life span to include, infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly,
b) women’s health (to include prenatal and gynecologic care),
c) care for conditions requiring surgical management, including pre-operative, intra-operative, post-operative care and
d) care for behavioral and mental health conditions.

Knowing Your Resources

If you don’t visit the ARC-PA website on a regular basis, you may not be aware of the many resources that are available to you. Whether you are a Program Director, Medical Director, Clinical Director or Principal Faculty, the resource page of the ARC-PA website can provide helpful information.

http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/resources/

Resources include:

Accreditation Manual
SCPE Portal Instructions
Data Analysis Resource
Change Forms & Required Reports
Syllabi & Objectives Manual
Sample Application Materials
Notes to Programs
Portal Updates
Accreditation Standards 5th Edition Update

The ARC-PA Commission Standards Committee is currently engaged in review and revision of the 4th edition of the Standards.

The ARC-PA Commission Standards Committee began its formal review and revision of the standards in 2017. The Committee has reviewed the data collected from the 2016 survey of PA program faculty as well as the PAEA focus group in October 2016. Based on this data, it has begun a revision of the Standards.

The Committee plans to have a draft of the 5th edition of the Standards to be presented to the full ARC-PA Commission in September 2018 to be discussed and voted on by the full Commission. If approved, the draft will be presented at the annual PAEA education forum in October 2018. The PA program faculty, staff and institutional official, as well as other constituent organizations will be invited to provide feedback and comments on the draft. The mechanism and timeline for that feedback will be posted on the ARC-PA website.

The current plan is to have the 5th edition of the Standards in final form by the end of 2019.

Post Graduate Accreditation

At the September 2017 commission meeting, the Commission voted to take the accreditation process for clinical postgraduate PA programs out of abeyance. A taskforce has been charged with developing a proposal for a new accreditation process, timeline and standards for postgraduate PA programs.

This taskforce plans to develop a more efficient process of postgraduate accreditation while maintaining the high standards of education required by the ARC-PA.

ARC-PA Seeks Public Commission Member

The ARC-PA seeks nominations for a public member commissioner. The Public Member serves as a consumer advocate, representing the public interest in relation to the accreditation of physician assistant programs. The public member commissioner is expected to attend the three commission meetings (March, June and September) of the ARC-PA, contribute to discussions about accreditation status of programs, and participate in site visits to PA programs and as a member of ARC-PA committees or task forces.

The term of appointment is 3 years (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021) with an opportunity for re-appointment for a second three-year term. The public member may not derive his or her livelihood from the Physician Assistant profession. Those working in educational administration, health-related organizations, and the accreditation community are not automatically excluded from consideration.

Travel and other direct costs related to the public member attending regular, special, or committee meetings, or site visits will be paid by the ARC-PA. Public Commissioners receive no compensation for their services.

To be considered (nominated or self-declared), please submit a resume and a statement describing your/their interest, experience and background that would support the mission of the ARC-PA.

Materials must be submitted via e-mail to: sharonluke@arc-pa.org by August 17, 2018.
SUBMISSION OF MANUALS AND SYLLABI WITH THE APPLICATION OF RECORD

NOTICE: To programs with applications due including copies of program policy manuals and all course syllabi. Inclusion of these documents with the application does not negate the need to append evidence of compliance in the appendices as required throughout the application.

The application submitted by the program to the ARC-PA office continues to be the program's application of record. It is one component of the official program record used by the commission throughout the accreditation review process. Site visitors are not to accept any new or revised application materials from the program at the time of the visit.

However, the commission understands that between the time an application is submitted and the date of a site visit, syllabi, manuals and other documents may be in the process of their regular updates. Programs should not disrupt their process of updating and getting approval for course syllabi and other documents.

Programs are advised to discuss this potential situation with the site visit chair, explaining why the documents seen on site may be different from those in the application. Programs are to have both versions of the documents (those revised and those appended to the application) available for the site visit, highlighting changes made in the revised document. Site visitors will document what was seen on site but use the materials from the application of record to determine compliance with the Standards.

The syllabi and manuals appended to the program's application will be used by the commission, as needed, as evidence of compliance with the Standards.

PROGRAM WEBSITE COMPLIANCE AUDIT

The ARC-PA randomly audits all accredited program websites, checking for the Standards required content related to all components of standards A3.14 and A3.15.

The staff reviews web sites for the presence of the required information, verifying that it is readily available and accurate. If the process finds a program not in compliance, an inquiry is sent to the program director asking for an explanation or that corrective action be taken in a specified period of time. Programs not demonstrating compliance with standards A3.14 and A3.15 may be placed on Administrative Probation by the ARC-PA until such time as corrections are made and validated by the ARC-PA. This accreditation status is posted on the ARC-PA accredited programs web page.

COMMISSION ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES 2018 JUNE

Action Taken On:
1 Continuing program application
2 Provisional program applications
5 Provisional monitoring applications
2 Final Provisional application - Moving from provisional accreditation to continuing
3 Program reports due

Expedited Reviews – Total 42 reviews: 32 (report due), 10 (program change)
3 Referred to full commission
22 Program Informational Items
Notes to Program (Cont’d)

(Accreditation actions are posted on the ARC-PA website after each meeting, after all programs have been notified of commission decisions and after the deadline for any appeals which may change a program’s status.)

The total number of accredited PA programs as of June 23, 2018 is **236**.
The total number of accredited **clinical postgraduate** programs at present is **8**.
There are **29** programs with an accreditation status of Accreditation-Probation
There are **67** programs with an accreditation status of Accreditation-Provisional

New Site Visitor Workshop

Just prior to the PAEA Education Forum at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California the ARC-PA will be welcoming over 30 new site visitor volunteers.

Site visitors serve a critical role in the accreditation process by providing information to the ARC-PA about a PA Program’s demonstrated compliance with the Standards. It is through the written report of the site visitors that it is possible to verify, validate and clarify a program’s application and self-study information and to receive a perspective about the program’s operation that can only be obtained through direct observation.

If you are interested in becoming a site visitor, look for future communication from the ARC-PA with directions for application.

Welcome New Provisional Programs!

At the June 2018 meeting, the Commission granted Provisional Accreditation to the following programs….

**Lipscomb University**
Nashville, Tennessee

**California State University – Monterey Bay**
Marina, California

The ARC-PA would like you to meet...

**Davida Robinson**

Executive Assistant, ARC-PA

In April 2018, the ARC-PA welcomed Davida Robinson to our team. She joined as the Executive Assistant, reporting directly to the Executive Director, Sharon Luke.

Ms. Robinson has extensive experience as an executive assistant and event planner. Most recently, she worked for Mayor and City Council of Stockbridge, Georgia.

After completing her Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson C. Smith University, Ms. Robinson is currently working towards her Masters in Business Administration at Strayer University.