



Accreditation Workshop Reflections



"The insight and advice provided by ACPE's Dr. J. Gregory Boyer [workshop leader] will be invaluable as we move forward in the accreditation process."

Dr. Sharon Clackum, President,
COPHS Alumni Association
Board of Directors

Overview of Accreditation and Self-Study

Pre- Self-Study. In fall 2011, Mercer's pharmacy faculty initiated activities in preparation for a comprehensive review of the Doctor of Pharmacy program by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in fall 2013 for the purpose of continued accreditation. This newsletter is the first in a series of quarterly electronic updates for our stakeholders.

ACPE and Standards for Accreditation. ACPE is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy, i.e., the doctor of pharmacy program.¹ The evaluation and accreditation of the program is in accord with the Standards and Guidelines for the Professional Degree Program Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Degree, available at <https://www.acpe-accredit.org/deans/standards.asp>. There are 30 standards covering the following six programmatic aspects: (I) mission, planning, and evaluation, (II) organization and administration, (III) curriculum, (IV) students, (V) faculty and staff, and (VI) facilities and resources. The programmatic requirements identified in these standards are considered essential and were established by ACPE with profession-wide input.²

Self-Study Process. Mercer's self-study will focus on verification of our program's

compliance with the standards and use of the information we gather for continuous quality improvement. Through the self-study process, our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders will agree upon the strengths of our program as well as the specific areas we need and desire to improve.³

Self-Study Report. The findings of our self-study will appear in a self-study report, which will contain documentation, data, and descriptive text that collectively provide evidence of compliance with the standards and support our self-evaluation of the extent to which our program addresses the requirements of each standard. The self-study report will also describe strategies we will pursue to ensure that compliance and programmatic strengths continue. Other strategies we identify will ensure that areas in which improvement is needed or desired are addressed in a timely and efficient manner.⁴

Mercer Pharm.D. Accreditation History. Mercer's Pharm.D. program has been fully accredited since its initial application in 1976. The customary cycle of review for established accredited programs is six years, when a comprehensive on-site evaluation visit is conducted. Fully accredited programs, like ours, have the ongoing obligation to continually demonstrate compliance with the standards.⁵

COPHS Mission Statement

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Mercer University seeks to prepare its professional and postgraduate students to effectively contribute to and improve healthcare through excellence in patient-centered care and research.



UPDATE on Self-Study for ACPE Site Visit in Fall 2013

Accreditation Self-Study Timeline



UPDATE on Self-Study for ACPE Site Visit in Fall 2013

Accreditation Workshop Reflections

As a first time participant in the ACPE self-study process, **Dr. Ashish Advani**, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Mercer Drug Information Center, commented that he, *“was able to gain valuable insight into the accreditation process.”*

Staff member, **Ms. Renel Thomas-Barber**, who provides administrative support for preceptorship coordination, observed that after attending the workshop and as a member of the subcommittee for Organization and Administration, she has gained *“a greater awareness of the importance of the College's successful collaborative relationships, within and outside the University. Such relationships are crucial to continued accreditation.”*

Alumna, **Dr. Maria Sikking**, summed up the sentiments of many: *“Everyone walked away from the workshop with an improved working knowledge of the accreditation process.”*

Self-Study Subcommittees

Our self-study is being directed by Lisa Lundquist, Assistant Dean for Administration and Clinical Associate Professor. Six subcommittees have been formed reflecting the six sections of the accreditation standards. Each subcommittee is chaired by a pharmacy faculty member and is comprised of 6-12 faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

Self-Study Organization

Lisa Lundquist, Self-Study Chair

Subcommittee	Chair	ACPE Standards
I. Mission, Planning, and Evaluation	Candace Barnett	Standards 1-3
II. Organization and Administration	Renee Hayslett	Standards 4-8
III. Curriculum	Nadir Moniri	Standards 9-15
IV. Students	James Bartling	Standards 16-23
V. Faculty and Staff	Ajay Banga	Standards 24-26
VI. Facilities and Resources	Susan Miller	Standards 27-30

Accreditation Workshop

Our self-study subcommittees participated in a workshop in January 2012, led by J. Gregory Boyer, Assistant Executive Director and Assistant Director, Professional Degree Program Accreditation, ACPE. Dr. Boyer provided a three-hour overview of ACPE's expectations for the self-study process and standards. He subsequently met for 30 minutes with each subcommittee to address specific questions. The workshop was beneficial for participants who had not previously participated in an ACPE accreditation self-study, as well as more seasoned participants as they sought greater understanding of the revisions to the guidelines (version 2.0) which provide clarification to the standards and became effective February 14, 2011.

Subcommittee Audits

Per the timeline, in fall 2011 each subcommittee completed an audit of their assigned standards. A town hall meeting was subsequently held in December 2011 to discuss each subcommittee's findings. As a result, a list of action steps was generated to enhance compliance with selected standards. The action steps will be presented to the pharmacy faculty for approval in January 2012. Future issues of this newsletter will present the approved action steps and our progress in addressing them.

Questions or Comments

Please direct any questions or comments to our Self-Study Chair

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References

- ¹ Policies and Procedures for ACPE Accreditation of Professional Degree Programs. December 2011. Available at https://www.acpeaccredit.org/pdf/CS_PoliciesandProcedures2011.pdf page 1-CS.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid page 3-CS.
- ⁴ ACPE Standards 2007 Self-Study Guide Version 1.1 February 15, 2007. Available at https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/cs_self-studyguideforstandards_2007_version1.1.pdf page 1.
- ⁵ Policies and Procedures for ACPE Accreditation of Professional Degree Programs. December 2011. Available at https://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/CS_PoliciesandProcedures2011.pdf page 3-CS.