

Accreditation

Developed for use by PA Programs
accredited by the Accreditation Review
Commission on Education for the
Physician Assistant

Fall, 2006

ARC-PA

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

Objectives

- Define accreditation in higher education in the US.
- List the functions of accreditation in higher education.
- Differentiate accreditation from recognition.
- Discuss the history of the accreditation process of higher education in the US from the mid 1950s to the present.
- Describe the accreditation process for PA programs.

What is Accreditation?

- Definitions
- Key Components
- Benefits to society

Goal

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Accreditation Functions

- Encourages evaluation and improvement
- Assists prospective students
- Protects programs from pressures
- Involves faculty and staff
- Sets national standards

Accreditation Components

- Standards
- Self Study Process
- Site Visit
- Accreditation Action and Publication
- Monitoring
- Reevaluation

Confidentiality

- Meticulous efforts are made by all involved in the peer review process
 - to maintain the confidentiality of information collected during the entire accreditation review
 - to avoid conflict of interest

Conflict of Interest

- Definitions
- Conflicts of Interest in Accreditation

Due Process / Fair Treatment

- Definition
- Complaints
- Appeals
- Public vs. Private Information

Types of Accreditation

- Institutional
- Specialized or programmatic

Accrediting Agencies

Accrediting agencies are private educational associations of regional or national scope, that develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

Accrediting Agencies Function

Grant public recognition to an institution or specialized program of study that meets or exceeds nationally established standards of acceptable educational quality

Alphabet Soup

- **ARC-PA**
Accreditation Review Commission on Education
for the Physician Assistant
- **ASPA**
Association of Specialized and Professional
Accreditors
- **CHEA**
Council of Higher Education Accreditation
- **USDE**
United States Department of Education

More Alphabet Soup

- **AMA**
American Medical Association
- **LCME**
Liaison Committee on Medical Education
- **CAHEA**
Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation
- **CAAHEP**
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Still More Alphabet Soup

- **COPA**
Council on Postsecondary Accreditation
- **COPRA**
Commission on Recognition of
Postsecondary Accreditation
- **CHEA**
Council of Higher Education Accreditation

Recognition

Recognition is the scrutiny and certification of the quality of accrediting organizations.

Recognition is granted by the USDE and/or CHEA.

CHEA

The Council of Higher Education Accreditation is a non-governmental coordinating agency for accreditation.

CHEA PURPOSES

- Advance academic quality
- Demonstrate accountability
- Encourage scrutiny and planning for change

Before CHEA

- Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA)
 - National Commission on Accreditation (NCA)
 - Federation of Regional Accrediting Commission of Higher Education
- Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA)

Role of Government

- The U.S. Department of Education does not accredit educational institutions and/or programs. It provides 'recognition' to accrediting agencies.
- The United States has no Federal Ministry of Education or other centralized authority exercising single national control over postsecondary educational institutions.

USDE

The United States Department of Education was established by an act of congress in May, 1980.

ASPA

The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors is a membership organization of specialized and professional accrediting agencies.

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ARC-PA

The ARC-PA is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public and PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

Accreditation History

- Medical
- Academic

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AMA Involvement

- Council on Medical Education established in 1904
- Flexnor report published in 1910
- Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
- Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA)

CAHEA

- A programmatic postsecondary accrediting agency recognized by the USDE and the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA)
- Predecessor agency to CAAHEP (1994)

After CAHEA

- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) was established in 1994 to replace CAHEA.

Accreditation vs. Certification

- Programs:
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
- Graduate PAs:
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

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What is the ARC?

The ARC-PA is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public and PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

ARC-PA Philosophy

High quality education for all physician assistants best serves the interests of both the public and the PA profession and continual self-study is the foundation for improving quality in the content and processes of education.

Role of ARC

- Establish *Standards*
- Define and administer process
- Determine compliance with *Standards*
- Award accreditation
- Work with collaborating organizations
- Define and administer appeal process

ARC-PA History

- 1971 *Essentials* developed, JRC-PA starts
- 1972 First programs accredited
- 1976 AMA transfers to CAHEA
- 1988 JRC-PA becomes ARC-PA
- 1991 AAPA administratively, offices in WI
- 1994 CAHEA dissolves, CAAHEP begins
- 2001 ARC-PA becomes freestanding
- 2004 ARC-PA moves to Georgia

Collaborating Organizations

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of PAs
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Surgeons
- American Medical Association
- Physician Assistant Education Association

ARC-PA Commissioners

- 2 commissioners from most collaborating organizations
- 3 commissioners from the two PA collaborating organizations
- 1 public member
- Term on commission is 3 years (+3)

Goals of the ARC-PA

1. Foster excellence in PA education through the development of uniform national standards for educational effectiveness.

Goals of the ARC-PA

2. Foster excellence in PA programs by requiring continuous self-study and review.

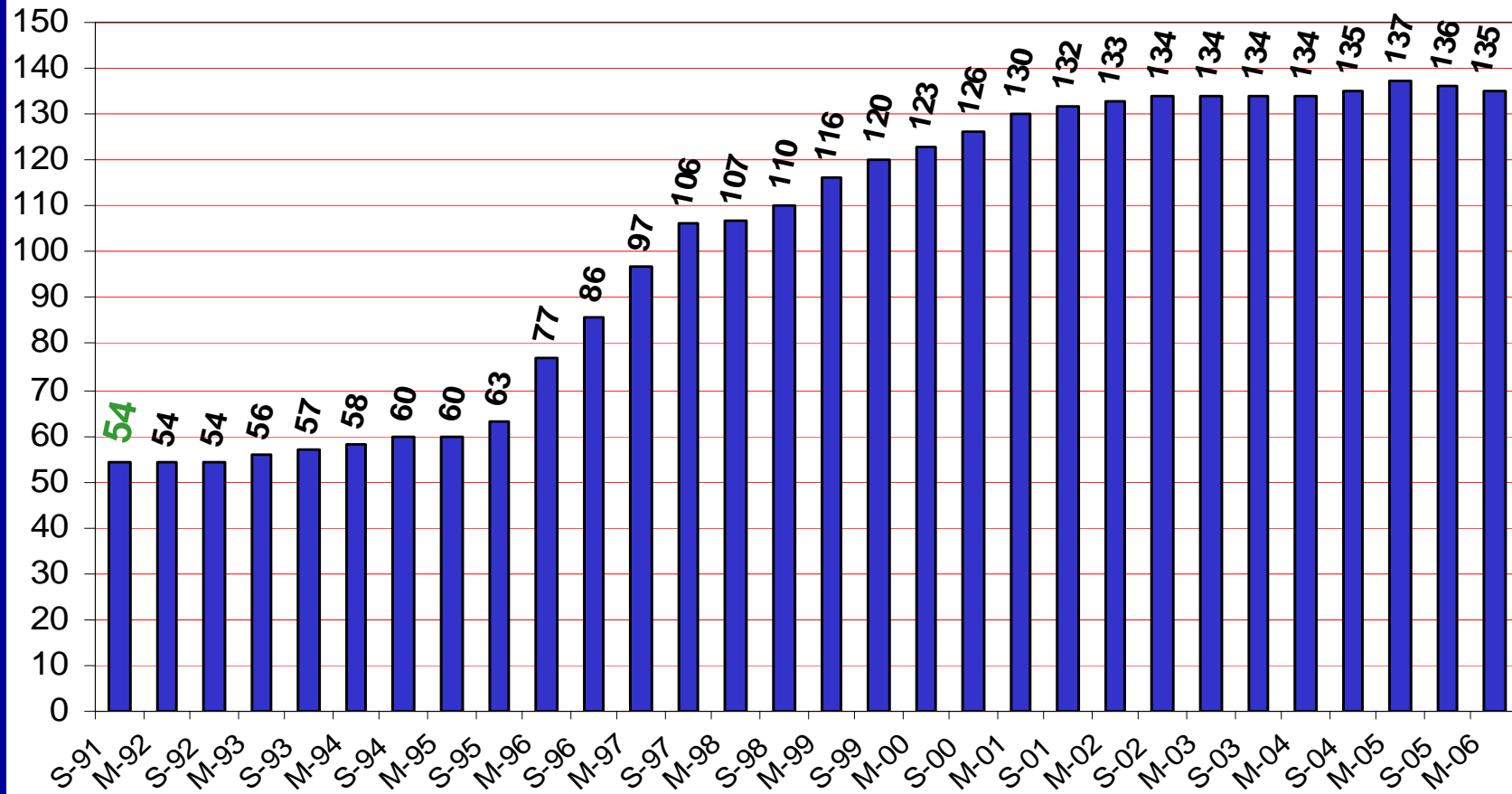
Goals of the ARC-PA

3. Assure the general public, as well as professional, educational, and licensing agencies and organizations, that accredited programs have met defined educational standards for preparing PAs for practice.

Goals of the ARC-PA

4. Provide information and guidance to individuals, groups, and organizations regarding PA program accreditation.

Accredited Programs



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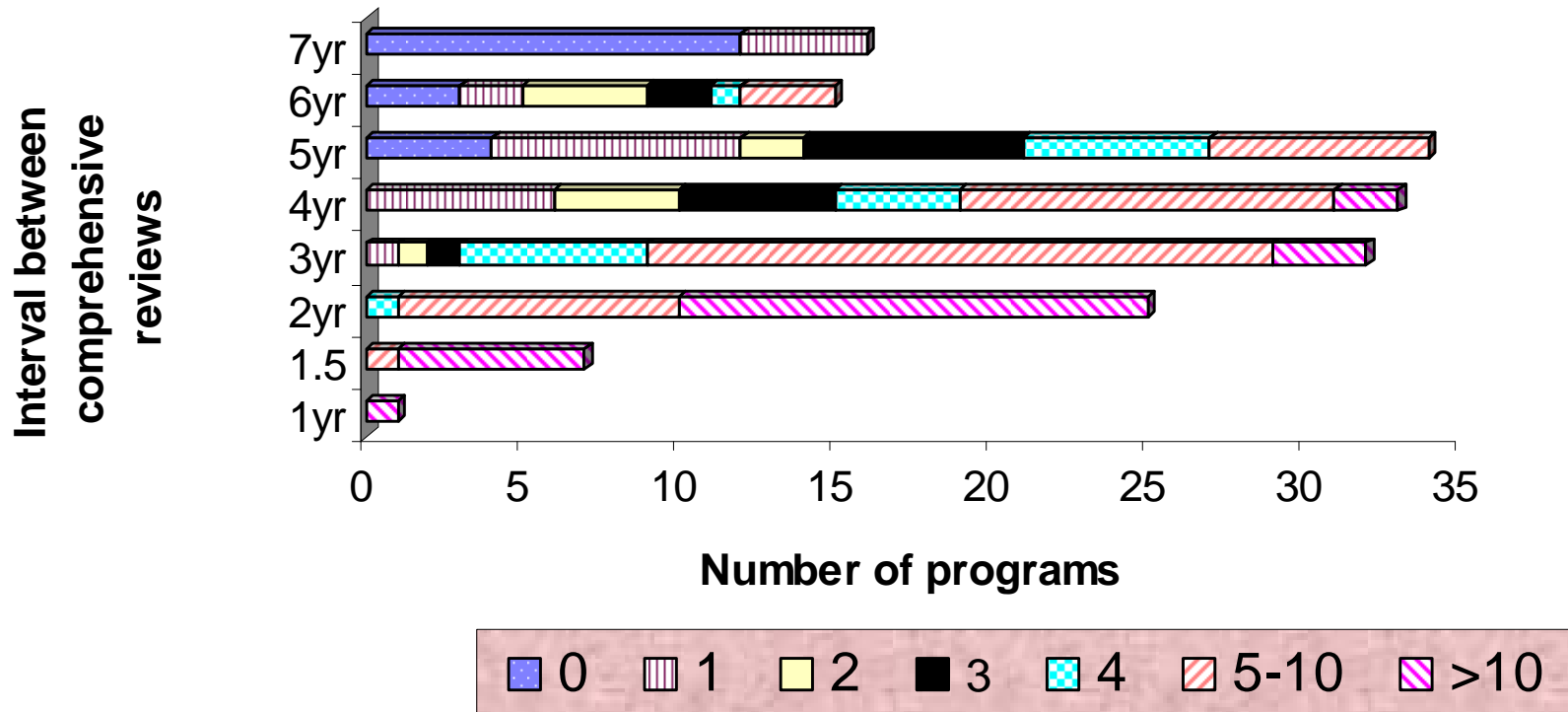


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for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

Accreditation Actions

- Provisional Accreditation
- Accreditation
- Probationary Accreditation
- Administrative Probationary Accreditation
- Accreditation Withheld
- Accreditation Withdrawn

174 Accreditation Decisions 09/01/01 - 04/01/06



Our Program's Accreditation

- First accredited
- Most recent visit
- Next site visit
- Length between visits

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Accreditation Process

- Program request
- Application, including Self Study Document
- Site visit
- Observations from visit
- Response from program (optional)
- ARC-PA review and accreditation action
- Ongoing monitoring

Site visit

- Two site visitors
- 1.5-2 day visit
- Verify, validate and clarify information
- Report “observations” to ARC-PA

Purpose of *Standards*

- The *Standards* outline the requirements to which an accredited program is accountable.

Standards

- Competency based
- Minimum criteria
- Allow for institution and program prerogative
- Do not require a specific academic degree

The *Standards*

- Administration (A)
- Curriculum (B)
- Evaluation (C)
- Student Services (D)
- Provisional Accreditation (E)
- Accreditation Maintenance (F)

The *Standards*

- Each standard has its own number
- B 6.03f would refer to
 - B Curriculum
 - B6 Health Policy and Professional Practice
 - B6.03 The program must provide instruction on
 - f PA program accreditation.

Administration (A)

- Sponsoring Institution
- Location
- Program personnel
- Fair Practices and Admissions
- Resources

Curriculum (B)

- Instruction
- Basic Medical Sciences
- Clinical Preparatory Sciences
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Information Literacy
- Health Policy and Professional Practice
- Supervised Clinical Practice

Evaluation (C)

- Ongoing Program Self Assessment
- Periodic Self Study Report
- Student Evaluation
- Clinical Site Evaluation

Program Self Assessment

- Self assessment
 - Comprehensive
 - Analytical

Analysis

Study of compiled or tabulated data interpreting cause and effect relationships and trends, with the subsequent understanding and conclusions used to validate current changes or make changes as needed for program improvement

Student Services (D)

- Health and immunizations
- Guidance
- Identification as PA students

Provisional Accreditation (E)

- Only applies to programs entering the accreditation process
- Specific requirements for personnel and curriculum

Accreditation Maintenance (F)

- Deals with responsibilities of programs for:
 - filing reports to ARC-PA
 - paying fees
 - proposed changes to class size
 - proposed changes to curriculum
 - proposed changes to degrees
 - proposed expansion to distant campus

Summary

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Accreditation Resources

- ARC-PA <http://www.arc-pa.org>
- ASPA: <http://www.aspa-usa.org>
- CHEA: <http://www.chea.org/>
- USDE:
<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>

Accreditation Resources

- CAAHEP: <http://www.caahep.org/>
- JCAHO : www.jcaho.org

PA Profession Resources

- American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
<http://www.aapa.org>
- Physician Assistant Education Association
(PAEA, formerly APAP)
<http://www.apap.org>
- National Commission on Certification of
Physician Assistants. (NCCPA)
<http://www.nccpa.net>

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