



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

April 9, 2018

12000 Findley Road, Suite 275
Johns Creek, GA 30097
Phone: 770-476-1224
Fax: 770-476-1738
Email: sharonluke@arc-pa.org

Patricia Beeson, PhD
Provost
University of Pittsburgh
3010 William Pitt Way
Building A7
UPARC
Suite 216
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
beeson@provost.pitt.edu

Dear Dr. Beeson:

The **University of Pittsburgh Physician Assistant Program** has been granted **Accreditation-Continued** status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). This decision is based on the program application and appendices, the report of the site visit team, the program response to observations and its accreditation history.

The ARC-PA noted **three (3)** areas of noncompliance with the *Standards*. Please see the companion Word document for the complete commission report and requested response. Failure to submit a response may result in reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.

The ARC-PA has extended the time between regularly scheduled validation reviews from seven to ten years. The date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **March 2028**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the *Standards* and ARC-PA policy. The ARC-PA reserves the right to adjust the date or schedule.

The next validation review, although ten years out, is not *carte blanche* but comes with accreditation requirements along the way, including periodic compliance reporting to the ARC-PA and the submission of an SSR several years in advance of the validation visit. Failure to remain in compliance with the *Standards* at any time may be cause for an adverse accreditation action to be taken by the commission.

The program will be contacted by the ARC-PA in advance of the validation visit review regarding details of the SSR, application, and site visit.

Collaborating Organizations: American Academy of Family Physicians • American Academy of Pediatrics • American Academy of Physician Assistants • American College of Physicians • American College of Surgeons • American Medical Association • Physician Assistant Education Association

Member: Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

Recognized by: Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

Please note that the approved maximum entering class size is **48**. The program is not to exceed that maximum entering class size number for any reason during its next and subsequent admission cycles without prior approval from the ARC-PA for a class size increase.

The ARC-PA will not consider a request for an increase in maximum entering class size from a program holding the status of Accreditation-Continued until the program has maintained five consecutive years of that status. Additionally, a program holding the status of Accreditation-Continued must maintain four consecutive years of that status from the date of the last approved class size increase before the ARC-PA will consider a request for an increase in maximum entering class size.

When eligible to apply for an increase in class size, the program may request consideration for an incremental increase in maximum entering class size to span up to a four-year period of entering classes. If such a request is approved by the commission, the commission will not consider an application to increase class size for four years after the most recent increase, and unless the program has maintained Accreditation-Continued status without an adverse accreditation action throughout the entire period.

The ARC-PA will not consider an application for expansion to a distant campus from a program holding the status of Accreditation-Continued until the program has maintained five consecutive years of that status. A program must have outcomes from the first cohort of students at any distant campus before applying to expand to another distant campus.

To communicate the program's accreditation status in all printed and electronic media, the program and institution must use the following statement **exactly** as written. Any accreditation statements used in the past must be replaced with this language.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **University of Pittsburgh Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by the **University of Pittsburgh**. Accreditation-Continued is an accreditation status granted when a currently accredited program is in compliance with the ARC-PA *Standards*.

Accreditation remains in effect until the program closes or withdraws from the accreditation process or until accreditation is withdrawn for failure to comply with the *Standards*. The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **March 2028**. The review date is contingent upon continued compliance with the *Accreditation Standards* and ARC-PA policy.

Any program with a PANCE pass rate percentage of 85% or less for its 2017 cohort must submit an analysis of its PANCE performance to the ARC-PA by July 1, 2018. The form for reporting PANCE results is available at <http://www.arc-pa.org/accreditation/resources/program-change-forms/>

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The ARC-PA appreciates the commitment and dedication to quality PA education demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon Luke".

Sharon Luke, MSHS, PA-C
Executive Director

c: Rory A. Cooper, PhD; Department Chair; rcooper@pitt.edu
Deborah Opacic, MMS, EdD, PA-C; Program Director; dopacic@pitt.edu
Christina D'Argenio; Exec Assistant to the President, MSCHE; cdargenio@msche.org
Emily Van Wyck, JD; Legal Counsel, ARC-PA