

POLICY 317: Assessment of the Adequacy of Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria, ACEN and ARC-PA Processes, and Practices for Advanced Practice Provider Programs

The ACEN and ARC-PA maintains an ongoing systematic review designed to ensure that (1) the Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria are valid and reliable indicators of the quality provided by accredited advanced practice providers programs and are relevant to the needs of trainees; (2) ACEN and ARC-PA processes are reliable and assess knowledge and consistency of observations, applications, decisions, and perceptions; and (3) there are broad communications and consultations across constituencies.

The findings from the ongoing review are used for development, maintenance, and revision of the Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria, processes, and practices. Evidence to support ongoing systematic review appears in Commissioners' minutes, annual reports, the Report to Constituents, and on the ACEN and ARC-PA website.

The Process of Review

The process of review:

- Is comprehensive;
- Occurs at regular intervals;
- Examines each Standard and its accompanying Criteria as a whole;
- Involves relevant constituencies in the review;
- Affords relevant constituencies a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the review; and
- Requires that needed changes be made promptly to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and the consumer friendliness of products and services.

Aspects of the Review

A full review of the Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria occurs every five years.

The process consists of:

- Review of ongoing data analysis;
- Review of literature for trends in evaluation, nursing practice, physician assistant practice, and advanced practice provider/ programs;
- Distribution of draft versions to constituencies for comment;
- Review of comments and revision of drafts;
- Distribution of the revised drafts for comment;
- Review of comments and revision of drafts as needed; and
- Commission adoption of revised Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria for Advanced Practice Provider programs.

Reliability of Processes

Reliability is ensured by:

- Analysis of internal consistency and reliability of the accreditation status recommendations/decisions across the three levels of review trended over time;
- Identification of strengths and areas needing development by Criterion across the three levels of review trended over time; and
- Analysis of the perceived effectiveness of the planning and conduct of the accreditation site visit by the Advanced Practice Provider program and the site visit teams trended over time.

Communication and Broad Consultation Practices

Communication is ensured by:

- Solicitation of comments on proposed new or revised policies from interested parties;
- Distribution of the Annual Report findings as aggregated data trended over time; and
- Broad consultation across constituencies.

Planned Use of Data Analysis

Data analysis is used to:

- Maintain validity and relevance of the Advanced Practice Provider Standards and Criteria for Advanced Practice Provider programs;
- Maintain reliability of the accreditation processes and practices;
- Continue to identify and disseminate information in appropriate arenas regarding specific education needs of programs and peer evaluators as groups;
- Continue to identify and disseminate information in appropriate arenas regarding specific developmental needs of individual programs and peer evaluators; and
- Continue to identify and disseminate information in appropriate arenas regarding areas in which change needs to be facilitated.

Evaluation of the Site Visit

For each site visit, the Advanced Practice Provider program, program administrator, team chair, and team members have an evaluation form to complete. The information is used to:

- Improve the quality of the accreditation process and
- Identify potential team chairs.

Annual Report

All accredited Advanced Practice Provider programs are required to submit an Annual Report.

The Annual Report will request, at a minimum, the following information:

- Program participation data and
- Program outcomes data.

The ACEN and ARC-PA staff will review the information to ensure that programs continue to comply with policies and reporting requirements. Significant changes will be referred to the ACEN Board of Commissioners and ARC-PA Commissioners, and action may be taken as appropriate. Failure to submit the Annual Report could result in the Commissioners taking appropriate action, including potentially altering the Advanced Practice Provider program's accreditation status.

Data will be compiled by the individual programs for monitoring purposes and reported in aggregate form, trended over time.

Policy 317 History
Initial Approval: ____ 2023