



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

September 28, 2015

John E. McCarty
Executive Director

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Rita Cheng, PhD
President
Northern Arizona University
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Dear Dr. Cheng:

The **Northern Arizona University 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 and the program's accreditation history.

The ARC-PA noted **zero (0)** areas of noncompliance with the *Standards*.

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 **September 2025**. 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 (10) years out, is not *carte blanche* but comes with accreditation requirements along the way, including 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.

Please note that the approved maximum entering class size remains **50**. 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 increase.

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)

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.

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.

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.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) has granted **Accreditation-Continued** status to the **Northern Arizona University Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by Northern Arizona University. 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 **September 2025**. 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 82 percent or less for its 2015 cohort must submit an analysis of its PANCE performance to the ARC-PA by July 1, 2016. The form for reporting PANCE results is available at http://www.arc-pa.org/continuing_acc/program_change_forms.html.

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 call.

Sincerely,



John E. McCarty
Executive Director

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