



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

September 24, 2012

John E. McCarty
Executive Director
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Michael Fiorentino, EdD
President
Lock Haven University
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Dear Dr. Fiorentino:

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) is an independent accrediting body authorized to accredit qualified PA educational programs leading to the professional credential, Physician Assistant (PA). Accreditation is a process of quality assurance that determines whether the program meets established standards for function, structure and performance. ARC-PA does not accredit any academic degree awarded by the sponsoring institution of the PA program. The sponsoring institution determines which graduate degree to award.

The **Lock Haven University Physician Assistant Program**, based on information contained in the program application and all appendices submitted to the ARC-PA, the report of the site visit team, the program response and program history, has been granted **Accreditation - Continued**.

Please note that the program is approved to accept up to a class size of **72**, as specified in the program's application. This will result in a maximum aggregate student capacity of **144** for the **24** month program. In addition, the ARC-PA will not consider an application for expansion to a distant campus or increase in class size from any accredited program until the program has maintained five years of continuing accreditation without an adverse accreditation status.

The approximate date for the next validation review of the program by the ARC-PA will be **September 2017**. The program will be contacted by the ARC-PA in advance of that review regarding specific details of the application, reports and site visit.

For publicity purposes, the program and institution must use the following narrative, unaltered, as provided by the ARC-PA and readily accessible in all printed and electronic media:

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

Continued 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 2017**.

An accreditation letter often includes the word(s) “findings” or “general/additional comments”. The definitions for these words as used by the ARC-PA are as follows.

Findings - An explanation that often will accompany a citation in the accreditation letter or other correspondence dealing with program compliance with the *Standards*. The purpose of the “findings” is to clarify the issue of noncompliance with a specific standard for the program and not to specify “how to” comply with the cited standard.

General/Additional Comment(s) - Narrative that may be included in the accreditation letter or other correspondence with the program from the ARC-PA possibly linked with a specific Standard(s) that conveys a concern or expresses congratulatory comments. The purpose of the “Additional Comment(s)” is to clarify for the program a more global issue between the ARC-PA and the program but not to give advice or specify “how to” resolve the issue(s). Unless stated otherwise a response or corrective action to this type of commentary is not required.

During its review of the program, the ARC-PA noted areas of noncompliance with the *Standards* (4th edition) which are presented as citations in the accompanying document. The citations listed are referenced to standards under which the program was evaluated.

Please see the companion word document for the citations and for the program to use in submitting the required report. The program must submit a report no later than July 1, 2013.

Failure to respond satisfactorily to the above requested information may result in a reconsideration of the program’s accreditation status or an earlier scheduling of the next validation review.

The ARC-PA policy regarding submission of required reports reads:

Failure to provide the required report/document by the specified deadline will be cause for:

- the program to be placed on Administrative Probation
- the required information to be resubmitted for a future ARC-PA meeting agenda

The ARC-PA reminds the program to review the *Standards* (4th edition) in particular Section E, regarding maintenance of accreditation. The Standards 4th Edition are located on our website (<http://www.arc-pa.org/>).

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

Michael Fiorentino, EdD
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Sincerely,



John E. McCarty
Executive Director

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