

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION



INTERIM REPORT ACTION DOCUMENT

June 23-25, 2016

**Professional Program Leading to the
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree**

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

STORRS, CONNECTICUT

**UNIVERSITY of CONNECTICUT
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

Current Accreditation Term: Through June 30, 2021 (comprehensive review 2020-2021).

Summary of Standards Addressed in the Interim Report, dated March 7, 2016:

Standard	Status Before Report	Status After Report
3: Evaluation of Achievement of Mission and Goals	Compliant with monitoring	Compliant
10: Curricular Development, Delivery, and Improvement	Compliant with monitoring	Compliant
19: Progression of Students	Compliant with monitoring	Compliant
24: Faculty and Staff – Quantitative Factors	Compliant with monitoring	Compliant
30: Financial Resources	Compliant with monitoring	Compliant

Administrative Changes: None reported.

Monitoring requested by the ACPE Board for the Interim Report, by Standard (*with Board Comments in italics*):

Standard No. 3: Evaluation of Achievement of Mission and Goals

- A **brief description** of the continued implementation of the School's Evaluation and Assessment Plan should be provided, including evidence of how the data obtained has been applied for purposes of programmatic improvement.

Comments: *The Board notes that the School has transitioned from a Curriculum Committee to a Curriculum and Curricular Assessment Committee. In addition the Assessment Committee is now the Institutional Assessment Committee. The School believes that these changes will allow for clearer understanding of assessment roles with each committee when undertaking the revision of the assessment and evaluation plan for their respective areas: curricular assessment and institutional effectiveness.*

The Board acknowledges the changes that have been implemented over the past year based on data from the program's current evaluation plan.

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Standard 10: Curricular Development, Delivery and Improvement

- A **brief description** of continuing curricular changes should be provided.

***Comments:** The Board notes that the Curriculum and Curricular Assessment Committee has conducted an extensive mapping exercise to identify gaps and redundancies in the curriculum. Use of ExamSoft has expanded. The Board notes that a full-day retreat around item-writing and pedagogy was held for the Department of Pharmacy Practice. A curricular review process has been developed.*

Standard 19: Progression of Students

- A **brief description** of how the School's plans to support improved progression have been implemented, including data attesting to the success of the plans, should be provided.

***Comments:** The Board notes the School continues to utilize a multi-pronged approach to identify students in academic difficulty. The Academic and Technical Standards Committee, composed of faculty, alumni and students, reviews academic progression pertaining to the School's "D grade policy" and technical standards. The Board acknowledges the School's description of the students identified through this policy.*

The Board notes that the School also uses high-stakes curricular progress exams in the P2 and P3 years to evaluate the curriculum and students. The Board notes that the PCOA will replace these high-stakes exams. The School is currently awaiting results from the PCOA to determine how the exam will be used.

Finally, the Board notes that the School is using ExamSoft to track student achievement of outcomes and curricular topics.

Standard 24: Faculty and Staff—Quantitative Factors

- A **brief description** of any changes in staffing should be provided.

***Comments:** The Board notes that the School initiated a three-pronged approach to addressing staffing concerns including: 1) analysis of the current staffing situation; 2) analysis of staff reporting lines; and 3) identification of critical needs. The Board notes that the School has taken several steps including:*

- *A reduction in the number of staff reporting to the Dean;*
- *The addition of a second staff member to assist the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services;*
- *The addition of a part-time staff member to assist the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; and*
- *The addition of a second part-time site coordinator for the Office of Experiential Education.*

In addition, a Staff Enhancement Committee was established.

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Standard 30: Financial Resources

- A **brief description** of the status of financial resources available to support the School and the Doctor of Pharmacy program should be provided, particularly since the identification of a new Dean.

***Comments:** The Board notes that, while the School is facing fiscal challenges including state budget reductions and funding cuts, the program has positioned the School well. In this regard, funding is available to support the hiring of three new faculty positions. The Board notes that the University is part of a \$10 million/3 year state award along with Yale for commercialization of academic drug discovery efforts which will be housed primarily in the School of Pharmacy.*

The Board notes that the School has received \$2 million in anonymous bequests.

Board Action:

- The Board affirms accreditation of the PharmD program through **June 30, 2021**. Remaining issues should be addressed as a component of the self-study to be conducted in preparation for the next comprehensive evaluation planned for academic year **2020-2021**.