Proposed Change to Standards: Request for Public Comment

The NAACLS Board of Directors is requesting public comment for a proposed Standards change. All comments must be sent via letter to the NAACLS office, or by email to dmeaders@naacls.org, by the end of business on January 8, 2018.

Proposed Change to Standard VII.A (Program Director Qualification) for Path A programs:

VII. PathA Program Administration
A. Program Director

1. Qualifications
   Individuals must be:
   a. A graduate of a NAACLS-accredited (AAPA approved prior to 1995) pathologists' assistant educational program with an advanced degree (masters or doctoral): Program Directors approved by NAACLS prior to 2018 will be eligible and grand-fathered as Program Directors.
   b. Certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) or as a board-certified Pathologist

   If the Program Director is a pathologist, there must be an ASCP certified, program-trained Pathologists’ Assistant employed as the Educational Coordinator/Clinical Coordinator.

   c. Program Directors must possess:
      • A faculty appointment in the sponsoring institution and meet all requirements specified by the institution responsible for providing the didactic portion of the program and maintaining overall operation of the program.
      • Practical knowledge of educational methods
      • Knowledge of current NAACLS accreditation and certification procedures via a NAACLS workshop
      • Documentation of continuing faculty/technical development to be able to teach effectively

      If the program director is not certified as a Pathologists’ Assistant (ASCP), a certified Pathologists’ Assistant (ASCP) must hold appointment as education coordinator/career clinical coordinator.

2. Responsibilities
   The program director must:
   a. be responsible for the organization, administration, instruction, evaluation, continuous quality improvement, curriculum planning and development, directing other program faculty/staff, and general effectiveness of the program;
   b. provide evidence that s/he participates in the budget preparation process;
   c. engage in a minimum of 45 hours of documented continuing professional development every three years;
   d. be responsible for maintaining NAACLS accreditation of the program;
   e. have regular and consistent contact with students, faculty, and program personnel.

3. Faculty Appointments
   The program director must have a faculty appointment at the sponsoring institution or must have a faculty appointment in each affiliated academic institution. In the case of a clinically based program, the program
director's appointment at affiliated academic institutions may be a regular one, a non-salaried clinical or courtesy appointment, or an adjunct appointment, depending upon the regulations of the academic institution.

Program Directors who have been approved as a program director of a NAACLS accredited Pathologists' Assistant program prior to October 1, 2013 remain eligible as a program director.

B. Site Program Coordinator (required for multi-location programs only; assigned to each participating site)

1. Qualifications
   The site program coordinator must:
   a. have an academic degree appropriate to the program level;
   b. hold the same level certification required of a program director.

2. Responsibilities
   The site program coordinator, when required, is responsible for:
   a. coordinating teaching and clinical education;
   b. evaluating program effectiveness;
   c. maintaining appropriate communications with the program director.

Program Directors who have been approved as a program director of a NAACLS accredited Pathologists' Assistant program prior to October 1, 2013 remain eligible as a program director.

This request for public comment has been placed in the NAACLS News and on the NAACLS website, and comments may be sent via letter to the NAACLS office, or by email to Dmeaders@naacls.org. Due to the informal nature of LISTSERV communications, comments or discussion posted on the CLS Educators LISTSERV will not be presented to or considered by the NAACLS Board of Directors. All comments must be received by the end of business on January 8, 2018. The comments will then be reviewed and brought before the Board of Directors at the April 2018 Board Meeting.

Donna Meaders, Accreditation Coordinator