

Which Boards of Pharmacy require ACPE accredited continuing education for re-licensure?

Not ALL State Boards of Pharmacy require education programs to be accredited by an approved ACPE continuing pharmaceutical education provider, however, Nebraska does. For more information, contact the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy at 402-471-2118.

Practice of Pharmacy Regulations, Title 172, Chapter 128, Section 128-003.03. Pharmacists are required to submit evidence of continuing education hours to the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy for re-licensure and must obtain such hours from an approved provider.

All certificates of continuing education must be signed by a representative of an approved provider. Approved providers of continuing education are:

1. The American Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE),
2. The Nebraska Council on Continuing Pharmacy Education (NCCPE), or
3. Other providers demonstrating the same quality standards as those established in the Criteria for Quality of the American Council on Pharmacy Education.

Note: ACPE accredits (or endorses) NCCPE as a provider of continuing pharmaceutical education.

What is ACPE?

ACPE is the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education and is located in Chicago, IL. ACPE does not approve continuing pharmaceutical education programs, but rather they accredit or endorse organizations (called providers) of continuing pharmaceutical education providers. The overall purpose of ACPE's provider accreditation mechanism is to:

- advance the quality of continuing pharmaceutical education, thereby assisting in the advancement of the practice of pharmacy
- establish the criteria and characteristics of accredited continuing pharmaceutical education providers
- provide pharmacists with a dependable basis for selecting accredited continuing education experiences
- provide a basis for uniform acceptance of continuing pharmaceutical education credits among the states
- provide feedback of information to providers about their offerings
- encourage periodic self-evaluation with a view toward continual improvement and strengthening of continuing pharmaceutical education activities.

If an organization is interested in becoming an ACPE approved provider of continuing pharmaceutical education, they should visit the ACPE web site at http://www.acpe-accredit.org/frameset_AppProv.htm. NCCPE is an accredited ACPE provider.

Is NCCPE the only ACPE accredited provider of continuing pharmaceutical education credits in Nebraska?

NCCPE is not the only ACPE accredited provider of continuing pharmaceutical education credits. There are other organizations, as well as several pharmaceutical companies, who are ACPE accredited providers. Visit ACPE's web site at www.acpe-accredit.org for a complete list of ACPE approved providers of continuing pharmaceutical education. Policies, procedures, fees, deadlines, and forms vary among the providers. Or, an organization may apply to ACPE to become their own accredited provider of continuing pharmaceutical education.

Does the Nebraska Pharmacists Association (NPA) approve continuing pharmaceutical education credits for programs? Does the NPA set the policies and procedures associated with applying for continuing pharmaceutical education credits?

NPA does not approve continuing pharmaceutical education programs, nor do they set policy and procedures for the approval of ACPE accredited continuing pharmaceutical education credits. However, the NPA is one of three members of a consortium that makes up the Nebraska Council for Continuing Pharmaceutical Education (NCCPE). The other two NCCPE consortium members are: Creighton University School of Pharmacy (CU) and the University of Nebraska College of Pharmacy (UNMC). Each member of the consortium has three members on the NCCPE Board of Counselors. NCCPE must adhere to the criteria and reporting requirements of ACPE, and therefore, creates the policies and procedures for obtaining continuing education credits for pharmacists attending educational programs.

The NPA does not set the steps necessary to obtain approval of continuing education credits. The NPA is responsible for the administrative functions of NCCPE, including financial transactions; non-profit reporting to the IRS and filing of taxes; and adhering to ACPE's list of quality criteria and reporting requirements.

How does an organization obtain approval of continuing pharmaceutical education credits for pharmacists attending one of their educational programs?

1. Chose an ACPE accredited provider of continuing pharmaceutical education. A list of ACPE providers can be found at www.acpe-accredit.org. Each ACPE provider will have their own policies and procedures for obtaining continuing pharmaceutical education credits. Fees, deadlines, and forms vary among the providers.
2. If NCCPE is the chosen provider, contact NCCPE Secretary/Treasurer, Diane Webb, at 402-420-1500 or by email at diane@npharm.org for a packet of NCCPE forms. NCCPE may agree to closely work with an organization to design, develop, and implement quality continuing pharmaceutical education programs in full accord with the 26 quality criteria as set forth by ACPE. NCCPE will enter into a working agreement with the organization. This working relationship (called co-sponsorship) is not intended as a program approval process or function, but rather as a full and complete relationship where NCCPE manages all aspects of the program to assure that the program benefits fully from NCCPE's quality control procedures and administrative expertise.
3. 90 days PRIOR to the program date, return the completed NCCPE forms, along with a \$500.00 non-refundable NCCPE review fee, to NCCPE, 6221 S 58th St, Ste A, Lincoln, NE 68516. Checks should be made payable to NCCPE. NCCPE forms include information about the design, develop and quality assurance of the program:
 - a. Letter of Agreement between NCCPE and the organization requesting CE outline the working agreement between NCCPE and the organization.
 - b. NCCPE review packet for the program budget, needs assessment, learning assessment, faculty selection, and program evaluation forms, etc.
 - c. Letter of Agreement between the organization and those providing financial support for the program.
 - d. Disclosure forms for speakers.
 - e. Requirements for program promotional materials.
4. The NCCPE Council will review the program. If the program meets the 26 ACPE quality criteria, then an ACPE provider number will be assigned. There is a \$12.00 per participant fee for the issuance of an ACPE/NCCPE Statement of credit.

NCCPE shall show ACPE evidence of compliance with each of the 26 required quality criteria. Failure to comply with this criteria will result in the loss of ACPE accreditation:

1. Administration and Organization
2. Administrator Qualifications
3. Co-sponsorship with non-ACPE approved providers
4. Co-sponsorship with other ACPE approved providers
5. Program Announcement Literature
6. Continuing Education Credit
7. Record Keeping
8. Statements of Credit
9. Grievance Policy and Procedures
10. Adequate Financial Resources
11. Identifiable Budget
12. Faculty: Qualitative Considerations
13. Faculty: Quantitative Considerations
14. Support Staff
15. Appropriate Subject Matter
16. Educational Needs Assessment
17. Non-commercialism
18. Educational Objectives
19. Topic Development
20. Instructional Materials
21. Instructional Delivery Methods
22. Participant Involvement in Learning
23. Facilities Matched to Content and Method
24. Facilities Matched to Audience and Objectives
25. Learning Assessment
26. Program Evaluation