



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

New ARC-PA Policy on Geographic Scope

At its September, 2006 meeting, the ARC-PA adopted a revised policy related to the geographic scope of accreditation. The policy states, "The ARC-PA only accredits qualified PA programs offered by, or located within, institutions chartered by and physically located within the United States, and where students are geographically located within the United States for their education. The ARC-PA does not accredit educational programs leading to the PA credential in institutions that are chartered outside the United States or programs provided in foreign countries by ARC-PA accredited U.S. PA programs."

The ARC-PA will carefully review how accredited PA programs that permit some clinical rotations outside of the United States address that area within the accreditation application. Specifically it will pay close attention to Standards B7.02, C4.01, and C4.02.

Standard B7.02: The program must assure that all sites used for students during supervised clinical practice meet the program's prescribed expectations for student learning and performance evaluation measures, regardless of location.

Standard C4.01 The program must define and maintain consistent and effective processes for the initial and ongoing evaluation of all sites and preceptors used for students' clinical practice experiences.

Standard C4.02 The program must apply comparable evaluation processes to clinical sites regardless of geographic location.