



CoARC E-Newsletter

Greetings from CoARC:

With this first edition of the CoARC e-newsletter, we are pleased to bring you the latest news and information about the CoARC and the accreditation process. We will send you an update after each of the three Board meetings each year.

If you have any ideas about how we could make the newsletter more informative, please let us know!

Issue #1
Summer 2016

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COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

At its June meeting the CoARC Board approved the following edits to the language for the

proposed Standard 1.01:

Except as provided in the following sentence, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and must award graduates of the program a baccalaureate or graduate degree upon completion of the program. For associate degree programs that were accredited prior to January 1, 2018, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is recognized by the USDE. These programs may continue to award graduates of the program an associate degree as long as they remain ~~in compliance with~~ in compliance with ~~accredited by the CoARC.~~

The CoARC is disseminating a call for comment **(with an October 1, 2016 deadline)** for those wishing to provide input to the CoARC on these changes. Please submit your comments to Shelley@coarc.com on or before the October 1st deadline. The CoARC will be reviewing these comments at its November meeting.



—President-Elect Allen Gustin (left), MD presents Mr. Gary White with an appreciation award for the 2016 Dr. H. Fred Helmholtz Education Lecture Series at the AARC Summer Forum.



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- —The new NBRC Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) admissions policies require the applicant to be a graduate of an accredited program and have a minimum of an associate degree issued by the sponsoring educational institution.
- —CoARC and the NBRC have agreed upon a definition of the point at which a student is considered a graduate (and therefore can apply to the TMC Examination). *"The graduation date reported must be the date of degree conferral as posted by the registrar on the student's transcript."*



—Karen Schell, DHSc, RRT-NPS, RPFT (top) and Monica Schibig—, MA, RRT-NPS, CPFT both received the CoARC Louis Sinopoli, PhD, RRT, FAARC Faculty Educational Research Scholarship at the AARC Summer Forum this past June.



Dr. Shelley Mishoe, a Past President of CoARC, was the recipient of the Bonner Smith Outstanding Service Award.

RECENT CoARC ACTIVITIES

During its Award Ceremony at the AARC Summer Forum, the CoARC —presented the 2015 Distinguished RRT Award certificates to a record 78 programs. The list of programs is available on the CoARC website.

The following individuals were elected to positions on the CoARC Board effective at the close of the November Board meeting:

Treasurer - Kevin O'Neil, MD, FACP, FCCP

ATS - Alan Barker, MD

NN2 - Anne Loochtan, PhD

Physician At-Large - Joseph Coyle, MD

ASA - Charles Cowles, MD

—The CoARC Board approved the following clarifications to its accreditation Policies and Standards:

- —Added “and its territories” to the eligibility criteria for institutions to offer an accredited program.
- At its March 2016 meeting, the CoARC Board approved an application for accreditation from Antillean Adventist University in Mayaguez, PR.
- Other clarifications included Standard 3.06 (Student Evaluation) Interpretive Guideline, and Standard 3.09 (Reporting Program Outcomes) Interpretive Guideline.

Revised documents are available on the CoARC website.

[FAQS](#)

For the NBRC School Score Report, do I have to do an analysis and action plan for all scores

below the national mean?

No. Any sub score that is less than 85% of the national mean on NEW CANDIDATES ONLY is what you need to review and analyze.

How does CoARC define full-time?

The Interpretive Guideline for CoARC Standard 2.02 defines a 'full-time' employee as a person who holds an appointment that is considered by that institution to be full-time and whose responsibilities include teaching. The length of the full-time appointment (e.g., 9-month, 10-month, 12-month, etc.) must be sufficient to allow the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education to carry out their responsibilities as identified in 2.03 and 2.07, respectively. The Board has cited programs for not having the PD and DCE available and accessible when students are actively taking professional coursework (versus being off on a scheduled academic break).

Is advanced practice the same as advanced-level?

The definition of the term “advanced practice” in respiratory therapy has evolved over time. For many years, the National Board for Respiratory

Care (NBRC) defined advanced practice therapists as those who had earned the "advanced level" Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential in contrast to having earned the "entry level" Certified Respiratory Therapist credential (CRT). Since the elimination of CRT programs several years ago, entry into the profession is at the RRT level, "Advanced practice" is defined as practice that requires training beyond that for the RRT (APRT).

Do clinical adjunct instructors have to be employed at the hospital where they are the clinical instructor?

Either employed at the hospital where they teach, or, if they are performing on-site evaluations involving patients, employed by the school and have clinical privileges at the clinical site.

If I dismiss a student from one cohort for academic reasons and he/she is admitted in the next cohort to finish the courses that were not passed, does that student count as part of my maximum enrollment?

If a student comes back into the program and credit is being carried over from his/her previous enrollment, you may use the original student

profile. If the student does NOT carry any credit from the previous enrollment, s/he should be enrolled as a new student in the current cohort. Students from previous cohorts are counted towards the Maximum Annual Enrollment in the year they re-enrolled.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Articulation Agreement versus Consortium:

An **Articulation Agreement** is a agreement between two or more institutions, which allows a student to apply credits earned in specific programs at one institution toward advanced standing, entry or transfer into a specific program at the other institution(s). Articulation agreements are also referred to as transfer agreements. It is the prerogative of each CoARC-accredited sponsoring institution to establish articulation agreements. CoARC Standards 1.03 and DA1.3 describe sponsor responsibilities related to transfer credit.

CoARC defines a **consortium** as a **sponsor that includes more than one institution**. The consortium is a legally binding contractual

partnership of two or more institutions, at least one of which must be a duly accredited degree-granting institution of higher education, established to offer a Respiratory Care education program. Consortia must be structured to perform all the responsibilities and functions of a program sponsor." CoARC Standards 1.02 and DA1.2 define consortium agreements. There are currently 40 accredited programs with consortium sponsors. A list of the programs is available on page 95 of the 2015 CoARC Report on Accreditation available on our website.

Annual School Summary versus School Score Report:

The **Annual School Summary** is a report generated from the NBRC database that provides aggregate data for each accredited program regarding CRT and RRT credentials earned, by graduation year. It is used by the CoARC to verify credentialing success data included in the annual reports.

The **School Score Report** (now referred to as the **TMC Subscores by Content Domain**) is a report, generated using the NBRC database, that provides aggregate data, by content category, regarding graduate performance on

the TMC exam . It shows the mean score for each program compared to the national mean. The report is used to assess compliance with Standards 3.05 and 4.03.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- CoARC will be hosting a free webinar on Inter-rater Reliability on Sept 15th at 10 am EST. Stay tuned for more info.
- The AARC Congress is in San Antonio **October 15th - 18th**. Stop by the CoARC booth and say hello, ask questions, and meet Bonnie Marrs, CoARC Site Visit Coordinator!
- The CoARC is holding another **Open Hearing related to the revision of Standard 1.01 on Sunday October 16th at 5:15 - 5:45 pm** (Grand Hyatt San Antonio Presidio A-B -3rd floor) during the AARC Congress. The format will be the same as at the Summer Forum this past June.
- Upcoming CoARC Board meetings are in **November 10-12, 2016** and **March 9-11, 2017**, both in Bedford, TX.

- Progress Reports are due **September 20th** for those programs that received a CoARC Action letter this past year. Please submit your progress report and related documentation to Shelley@coarc.com on or before the September 20th deadline.

SPOTLIGHT

CoARC welcomes two of our newest Commissioners: Kelli Chronister and Kenneth Winn!



Kelli A. Chronister, MS, RRT-NPS, CPFT, RCP

Kelli Chronister has been a site visitor since 2008 and joined the CoARC Board this past March as an AARC representative. Kelli was also recognized for outstanding service this past year with the Dr. Kendall Outstanding Site Visitor award. Kelli has 10 years' experience with Cuyahoga Community College in the roles of clinical instructor, program instructor and DCE. Since 2009, she has been the DCE at The University of Akron.



Kenneth Winn, MHA, RRT

Kenneth Winn joined the CoARC Board this past June as an American Thoracic Society (ATS) representative. Kenneth is the Director of Respiratory Care & Pulmonary Lab Services at Tale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT. Kenneth earned his B.S. in Respiratory Therapy from SUNY Upstate Medical University,

Syracuse, NY and a Master of Health
Administration from the University of North
Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte,
NC. Kenneth adds a desirable perspective from
hospital administration to the CoARC Board.

Inquiries related to this E-Newsletter can be addressed to:

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