



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 three Board meetings each year.

If you have any ideas about what to add or change to the newsletter to make it 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 to read:

An 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 be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to award graduates of the program a an associate or higher baccalaureate or graduate degree upon at the 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 the 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



—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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comments at its November meeting.

- —The new NBRC Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) admissions policies require the applicant to “be a graduate and have a minimum of an associate degree issued by the sponsoring educational institution.”
- —Both CoARC and the NBRC have a mutually-agreed upon 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.

RECENT CoARC ACTIVITIES

- During its Award Ceremony at the AARC Summer Forum, the CoARC —presented the 2015 Distinguished RRT Award certificates to a record high 78 programs. The list of programs is available on the CoARC website.
- Dr. Shelley Mishoe, a Past President of CoARC, was the recipient of the Bonner

—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.

Smith Outstanding Service Award.

- Karen Schell, DHSc, RRT-NPS, RPFT 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. Each recipient received a certificate and \$2,000.
- Mr. Gary White presented the Dr. H. Fred Helmholtz Education Lecture Series on Tuesday. His topic was “Meeting Thresholds and Maintaining an Excellent Respiratory Care Program.” A copy of the presentation is available on the CoARC website.

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

Treasurer

- Kevin O’Neil, MD, FACP, FCCP

ATS (Eligible for Second 4-Year Term)

- Alan Barker, MD

NN2

- Anne Loochtan, PhD

Physician At-Large (Eligible for First 4-Year Term)

- Joseph Coyle, MD

ASA (Eligible for Second 4-Year Term)

- 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 sponsoring institutions that allows sponsors in U.S. territories to offer an accredited program.
- At its March 2016 meeting, the CoARC Board approved an application for Antillean Adventist University in Mayaguez, PR.
- Other clarifications were with 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 85% or more below the national mean on NEW CANDIDATES ONLY is what you need to review and analyze.

How does CoARC define full-time?

CoARC Standard 2.02 defines 'full-time' as a qualified paid employee of an institution to teach specific content in the respiratory care curriculum who holds an appointment that is considered by that institution to constitute full-time service. 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 the ability 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 during the time frames 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 have 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 entry into the profession is at the RRT level. “Advance practice” is defined as practice beyond the RRT (APRT).

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

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

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 their previous enrollment, then they should keep the original

student profile. If the student does NOT carry any credit from the previous enrollment, they should be entered in as a new student in the current cohort. Students coming 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 an 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 legally binding contractual partnership of two or more institutions, at least one of which is a duly accredited degree-granting institution of higher education, established to offer a Respiratory Care education program. Consortia must be

structured to recognize and perform all the responsibilities and functions of a program sponsor." CoARC Standards 1.02 and DA1.2 cover consortium agreements. There are currently 40 consortium programs accredited by CoARC. 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 through the NBRC database that provides aggregate data on CRT and RRT credentials earned by graduation year, and is used by the CoARC to verify credentialing success on the annual reports.

The **School Score Report** (now referred to as the **TMC Subscores by Content Domain**) is a report generated through the NBRC database that provides aggregate data of graduate performance on the TMC exam by content category. It shows the program mean score compared to the national mean. The report is used for 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 to pick up a site visitor ribbon for your badge and say hello to Bonnie Marrs!
- The CoARC is holding another **Open Hearing on Sunday October 16th at 5:15 pm** (location TBD) 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, RRRT

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:

Tom Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC, Executive Director
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