



First Draft Revision to Standard 1.01 and Interpretive Guideline

Current Standard 1.01:

Except as provided in the following paragraph, an educational sponsor must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and must award program graduates a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

Associate degree programs that were accredited prior to January 1, 2018, or that applied for accreditation prior to January 1, 2018 and have subsequently received accreditation, may continue to award program graduates an associate degree as long as they remain accredited by the CoARC. Sponsors of these programs must be post-secondary academic institutions accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the USDE and must award program graduates an associate degree.

First Draft Revision for 1.01:

The educational sponsor of an entry into practice program must be a post-secondary academic institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), and must award program graduates an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree upon successful completion of their professional coursework and degree requirements.

Interpretive Guideline:

Academic progression within the profession of respiratory care is of significant benefit both to members of the profession and to patients. Accordingly, the CoARC strongly encourages innovative efforts by accredited programs, especially at the associate degree level, to provide a smooth and simple process for program graduates to attain higher academic degrees, such as by working with institutions that offer degree advancement. Examples of academic progression partnerships include, but are not limited to, articulation and/or transfer agreements, dual or co-admission/enrollment, and accelerated advancement (associate to graduate) models.

Should the program sponsor not support the program's development of relationships with institutions offering higher levels of education, the program should strongly encourage its graduates to use other methods of achieving this goal, such as on-line DA options.

A copy of an institutional accreditation certificate or a letter, denoting the sponsor's current accreditation status, must be submitted with the program's Self Study or Letter of Intent Application. There are additional questions in the Application for Accreditation Services related to the sponsor's institutional accreditation status and its authority under applicable state laws to provide postsecondary education. As noted in the CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures, the sponsor is responsible for notifying the CoARC of any adverse change in its accreditation status.