

# ARC-PA

- Chair
  - Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA-C
- Vice Chair
  - Timothy C. Evans, MD., Ph.D., FACP
- Executive Director
  - John E. McCarty

# Objective

Provide A Feast of Information

## The Road Traveled

**May 28, 1971**

- The development of the ***Essentials of an Accredited Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician*** was undertaken by the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education's Advisory Committee on Education for Allied Health Professions and Services..

Subcommittee  
included representatives from

- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP),
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), American Medical Association (AMA)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC )

# November 30, 1971

- The AMA House of Delegates, with the endorsements noted and on recommendation of the Committee on Medical Education, **adopted** the *Essentials*,
- **clearing the way for the approval of educational programs** that met or exceeded these requirements.

# December 18, 1971

- Organizational meeting of the then-titled **Joint Review Committee for Educational Programs for the Assistant to Primary Care Physician (JRC-PA)**.

## Collaborating Organizations

- **American Academy of Family Physicians (2)**
- **American Academy of Pediatrics (2)**
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (3)
- **American College of Physicians (2)**
- American College of Surgeons (2)
- **American Medical Association (2)**
- Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA, formerly APAP) (3)
- Public Member (1)

# June 1972

- The JRC-PA made its first accreditation recommendations to the AMA.



# December 1976

- The AMA House of Delegates authorized the transfer of responsibility for accreditation from the AMA Council on Medical Education to its Committee on Allied Education and Accreditation (CAHEA)

**1988**

- The JRC-PA was renamed the Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

## **March 1991**

- The AMA requested that administrative responsibility for the ARC-PA be undertaken by another sponsoring organization

## **September 1991**

- The corporate offices of the ARC-PA was established in Marshfield, Wisconsin

# 1994

- CAHEA was dissolved and accreditation activities were transferred to a new, independent agency, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

## March 2000

- The members of the ARC-PA voted to become a free-standing accrediting agency for the PA profession as of January 1, 2001.

## January 1, 2001

- The Accreditation Review **Commission** on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) began operation

**March 9-10, 2001**

- Commission awards accreditation under the new agency ARC-PA

## ARC-PA Staff

- **Associate Director – St. Louis**  
**Laura Stuetzer**
- **Administrative Assistant**  
**Nancy Boggs**
- **Legal Counsel - Chicago**  
**Lynn Fleisher, PhD., J.D.**

## What do accrediting agencies do?

- Grant public recognition to an institution or **specialized program** of study that **meets or exceeds** nationally established standards of acceptable educational quality



# ARC-PA

## Mission

- The ARC-PA is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public, current and prospective PA students, and PA profession by **defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs** within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

## Goals

- **Foster excellence** in PA programs by requiring continuous self-study and review
- To ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education **meets or exceeds acceptable levels of quality**
- **Provide information** and guidance to individuals, groups, and organizations regarding PA program accreditation

# Geographic Scope

- 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.

➤ Confidentiality

➤ Avoid conflict of interest

➤ Due Process Fair Treatment

## Purpose of *Standards*

The *Standards* outline the requirements to which an accredited program is accountable.

## *Standards*

- Competency based
- Minimum criteria, since 1997 more specificity regarding curriculum
- Do not prescribe a specific academic degree

# The *Standards*

Administration

Curriculum

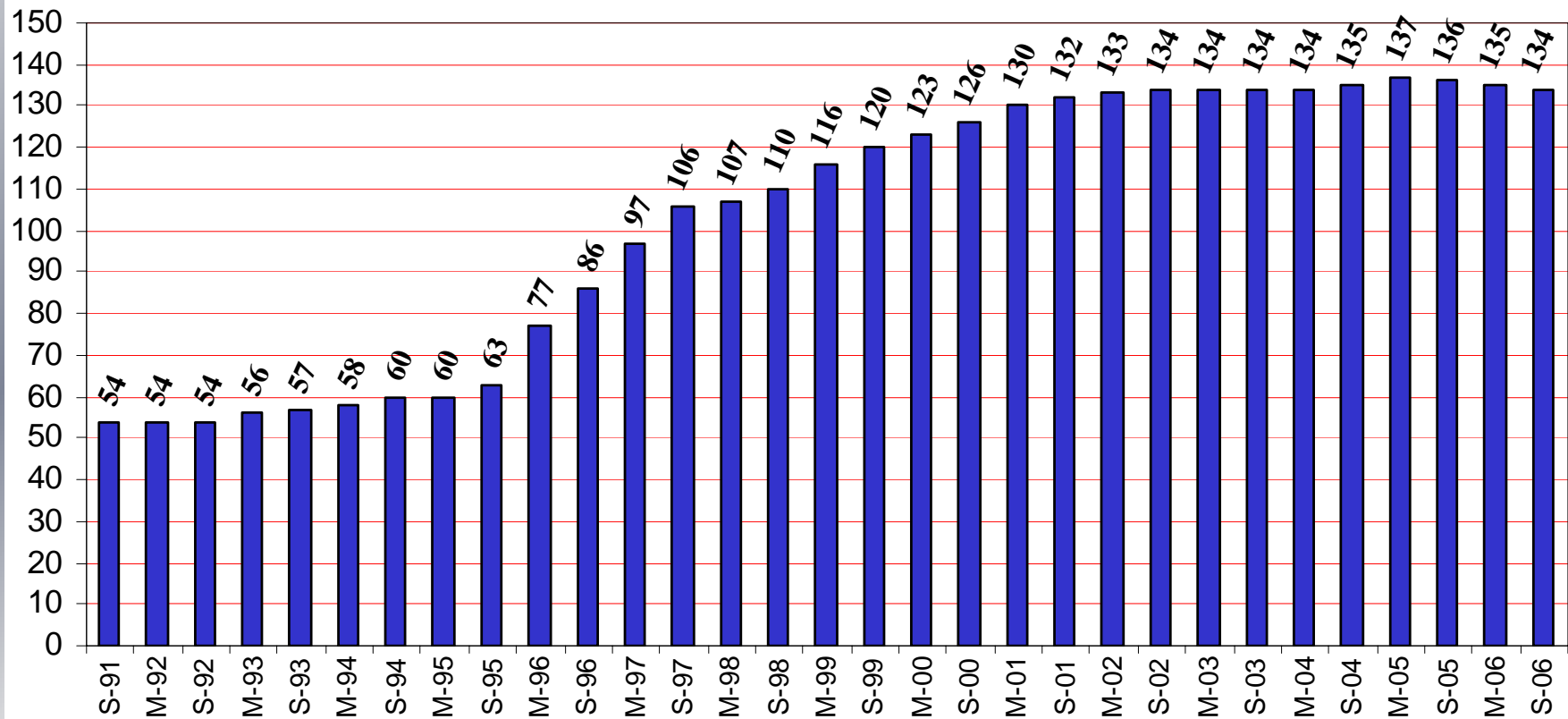
Evaluation

Student Services

Provisional Accreditation

Accreditation Maintenance

# Accredited Programs



Link PA education  
with patient care



3rd Edition of the Standards (9/1/06)

The ARC-PA acknowledges ongoing change in the delivery of health care and in the education of health professionals

B2.02 Instruction in the professional phase of the program **must include instruction in** the following basic medical sciences:

a)anatomy.

b)physiology.

c)pathophysiology.

d)pharmacology and  
pharmacotherapeutics.

**e)the genetic and molecular  
mechanisms of health and disease.**

“The future ain’t  
what it use to be”

Yogi Berra