March 24, 2006

David J. Skorton, MD
President
The University of Iowa
101 Jessup Hall
Iowa, City, IA 52242

Dear Dr. Skorton:

At its most recent meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) reviewed the application and supporting materials submitted from the The University of Iowa Physician Assistant Program, sponsored by The University of Iowa.

The ARC-PA is pleased to notify you that the program has been awarded Accreditation. Please note that the program is approved for up to 75 students, the maximum student capacity as specified in the program's application. The approximate date for the next full review of the program by the ARC-PA will be 2012. The program will be contacted by the ARC-PA in advance of that review regarding specific details of the application, reports, and site visit.

An accreditation letter often includes the word(s) "note" or "general/additional comments." The definitions for these words as used by the ARC-PA are as follows:

Note - An explanation that often will accompany a citation in the accreditation letter or other correspondence dealing with program compliance with the Standards. The purpose of the "note" is to clarify the issue of noncompliance with a specific Standard for the program and not to specify "how to" comply with the cited Standard.

General/Additional Comment(s) - Narrative that may be included in the accreditation letter or other correspondence with the program from the ARC-PA that may or may not be linked with a specific Standard(s) that conveys a concern or expresses congratulatory comments. The purpose of the "Additional Comment(s)" is to clarify for the program a more global issue between the ARC-PA and the program but not to give advice or specify "how to" resolve the issue(s).

During its review of the program, the ARC-PA noted the following citations related to noncompliance with the Standards (2nd edition). The citations listed have been referenced to the Standards under which the program was evaluated.
Standard A5.16  
Admission of students must be made in accordance with clearly defined and published practices of the institution and program.  
Note: The brochure and web site for the program state that the minimum acceptable GPA (science and GPA) is 3.0 and does not indicate the possibility of waiver or exceptions to this policy although at least one current student had a (CASPA) GPA of 2.68. The program acknowledged its brochure and web-site specify the minimum science and GPA and does not indicate the possibility of waiver or exceptions.

Standard C2.2a  
Critical analysis of outcome data must be incorporated in self-study reports and must include - student attrition, deceleration, and remediation.  
Note: Although there has apparently been limited attrition (most with successful recycling), it is not reported in the self-study report.

Standard C2.2b  
Critical analysis of outcome data must be incorporated in self-study reports and must include - faculty attrition.  
Note: The program did not provide a detailed analysis of faculty attrition in its self-study report to the ARC-PA.

Standard C2.2c  
Critical analysis of outcome data must be incorporated in self-study reports and must include - student failure rates in individual courses and rotations.  
Note: The program indicated there were a couple of courses for students that were particularly trying yet the self-study report provided no report analysis of specific course failure rates. The program acknowledged that although the program reviews student failure rates regularly the analysis of that review was not included in its self-study report to the ARC-PA.

Standard C2.2d  
Critical analysis of outcome data must be incorporated in self-study reports and must include - student evaluations of individual didactic courses, clinical experiences, and faculty.  
Note: In various places in the self-study report, feedback from students about certain courses is noted, but there is no analysis of that feedback or of individual didactic courses, clinical experiences, or faculty included in its self-study report to the ARC-PA.

Standard C2.2e  
Critical analysis of outcome data must be incorporated in self-study reports and must include - timely surveys of graduates evaluating curriculum and program effectiveness.  
Note: There are no data nor critical analysis of graduate surveys included in its self-study report to the ARC-PA.
By July 14, 2006, the program should submit a report indicating the manner in which the citations have been addressed/resolved and details about how the program plans to assure compliance in the future. The report should also include:

- An update of the ongoing discussions about financial stability currently underway with the Dean and CCOM.
- Please clarify for the commission how the program knows that all students do, in fact, have some direct experience with geriatric patients and experiences in Long Term Care settings. The program reports in its application that they do not do paper patient logs and do electronic patient logs only 50% of the time.
- The critical analysis of outcome data as referenced to C2.2 c, d & e which was not included in the self-study report or the program response but may have been submitted in the CCOM self-study.

The program should submit its report electronically as an attachment to arc-pa@arc-pa.org and mail one original and three copies (two sided, three hole punched, no staples or binders, secured with clips or rubber bands) to:

John E. McCarty  
Executive Director  
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant  
12000 Findley Road, Suite 240  
Duluth, GA 30097

Failure to respond satisfactorily to the above citation(s) may result in a reconsideration of the program’s accreditation status or an earlier scheduling of the next comprehensive review.

The ARC-PA would like to remind the program to review the newly revised Standards for which the program will be expected to be in compliance with after September 1, 2006 and to review Section F, regarding maintenance of accreditation.

The ARC-PA appreciates your commitment and dedication to quality PA education as demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

John E. McCarty  
Executive Director

c: David P. Asprey, PhD, PA-C, Program Director  
Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA-C, Chair, ARC-PA  
Lynn D. Fleisher, PhD, J.D., Legal Counsel, ARC-PA
The ARC-PA web site (www.arc-ap.org) houses copies of the Educational Standards as well as other information that is designed to be helpful to programs. For example, the News section is updated to include materials from ARC-PA presentations at national meetings, the Continuing section/Application and Forms has information on data analysis, and the Accredited Program page contains data on the number of accredited programs, credentials awarded, most frequent citations, and the time between comprehensive reviews.
March 22, 2007

David P. Asprey, PhD, PA-C
Director, Physician Assistant Program
The University of Iowa
5163 Westlawn
Iowa City, IA 52242-1100

Dear Dr. Asprey:


Disposition: Based on its evaluation the Commission accepts the response. No further information is requested at this time.

An accreditation letter often includes the word(s) "note" or "general/additional comments". The definitions for these words as used by the ARC-PA are as follows.

Note - An explanation that often will accompany a citation in the accreditation letter or other correspondence dealing with program compliance with the Standards. The purpose of the "note" is to clarify the issue of noncompliance with a specific Standard for the program and to specify "how to" comply with the cited Standard.

General/Additional Comment(s) - Narrative that may be included in the accreditation letter or other correspondence with the program from the ARC-PA that may or may not be linked with a specific Standard(s) that conveys a concern or expresses congratulatory comments. The purpose of the "Additional Comment(s)" is to clarify for the program a more global issue between the ARC-PA and the program but not to give advice or specify "how to" resolve the issue(s). Unless stated otherwise a response or corrective action to this type of commentary is not required.

The ARC-PA would like to remind the program to review the Standards (3rd Edition) in particular Section F, regarding maintenance of accreditation.

The ARC-PA web site (www.arc-pa.org) houses copies of the Educational Standards (3rd Edition) and accreditation manual, as well as other informational documents designed to be helpful to programs. The Accredited Program section (http://www.arc-pa.org/Acc_Programs/acc_programs.html) includes a resource page with several resources for programs (analysis, objectives/competencies/syllabi). These resources are updated periodically to include materials from ARC-PA presentations at national meetings. This section also includes a link to program data related to the business before the ARC-PA. The Continuing and Provisional sections include applications and forms for use as programs prepare for accreditation.
The ARC-PA appreciates the commitment and dedication to quality PA education as
demonstrated by your participation in the accreditation process. If you have any questions or
concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John E. McCarty
Executive Director

c. Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA-C, Chair, ARC-PA
   Lynn D. Fleisher, PhD, JD, Legal Counsel, ARC-PA
Certificate of Accreditation
Awarded to

University of Iowa
Physician Assistant Program
Iowa City, IA

Awarded: March 2006
Next Review: March 2012

Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA-C
Chair, ARC-PA

John E. McCarty
Executive Director, ARC-PA