COVID-19 & ARC-PA By the Numbers

May 2021
AAPA Posters in Action
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Disclosures

- No relevant commercial relationships to disclose

Learning Objectives

- At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:
  - Identify different modalities used by programs to deliver curricular content
  - Describe how PA programs nationally adapted their curriculums in a pandemic

The ARC-PA is the **recognized** accrediting agency that **protects** the interests of the **public**, including 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.

ARC-PA Mission

Timeline

- March 10: Joint Statement from ARC-PA & PAEA
  - Didactic Coursework guidance
  - Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs) guidance

- March 20: Update
  - ARC-PA does not dictate the length of SCPEs
  - "Waiving program requirements for students to meet SCPE learning outcomes is unfortunately not an option.
  - Programs that need to extend their completion dates should notify the ARC-PA.

- March 31: Update
  - The Commission strongly supports programs removing students from clinical sites **until the assurance of proper PPE is available.**
  - The ARC-PA has never mandated graduation requirements.
  - No drastic 'short-cuts' should be made to PA education that may release graduates who are not ready for practice. The program must assess students to determine they have met program-required competencies prior to graduation
  - Average response time for plans is 1-2 weeks

Timeline

- April 13: Update
    - ARC-PA does not plan to penalize program for decisions made during the pandemic to keep students safe.
    - The ARC-PA defines supervised clinical practice experiences (SCPEs) as: Supervised student encounters with patients that include comprehensive patient assessment and involvement in patient care decision making and which result in a detailed plan for patient management.
    - Programs may use virtual experiences, simulation or other technology to meet some of the program defined learning outcomes for SCPEs, but the intention remains that *SCPEs will include some direct patient care,* meet the program defined learning outcomes, and be of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare students for the clinical practice of medicine.
    - Telemedicine may be used to meet SCPE learning outcomes in some cases but has its limits.
    - Grading policy change guidance

- April 17: Updated COVID-19 Change forms available

Timeline

- May 4: Update
  - Are all programs required to complete the COVID-19 change forms?
    - The Commission wants to see plans for programs with substantial changes to the curriculum
    - Programs continue submission of changes as outlined in the E-section of the ARC-PA Standards as they occur.
    - COVID-19 reports should be made if the program made any changes to:
      - length of program (longer or shorter)
      - curriculum for any cohort
      - matriculation dates of any cohort
      - graduation dates
      - changes to cohorts start or end dates in SCPEs
      - teaching modalities for any cohort (for example, moving to online teaching use of virtual rotations, etc.)
  - 125 Covid-19 forms submitted/reviewed

Timeline

- August 11: Update
  - Programs have experienced the need for change in their submitted plans in light of evolving situations and decisions made on home campuses.
  - The ARC-PA expects the submission of a new COVID-19 form for programs that have changes or new details to report to ARC-PA.
  - Program faculty and staff participation in onsite screening
  - Program faculty and staff participation in contact tracing
  - 266 COVID-19 Change forms received, reviewed, processed
  - Over 110 emails responded to regarding COVID-19 questions and clarifications

Current

- As of March 3, 2021
  - 249 Programs submitted program change forms/emails related to COVID-19
  - 90% reviewed before June Commission Meeting
  - Assistant Director, Commissioner, Assistant Director of Accreditation Services & Executive Director

Data Collected

- COVID-19 Change Forms submitted for June & September Commission Meeting
  - Self-reported
  - Voluntary
  - Open-ended questions
  - No forced responses
  - Timing varied of submission
    - March through December

- Many programs with updates for March 2021

- Portal Alerts
  - Self-reported
  - E standard requirements

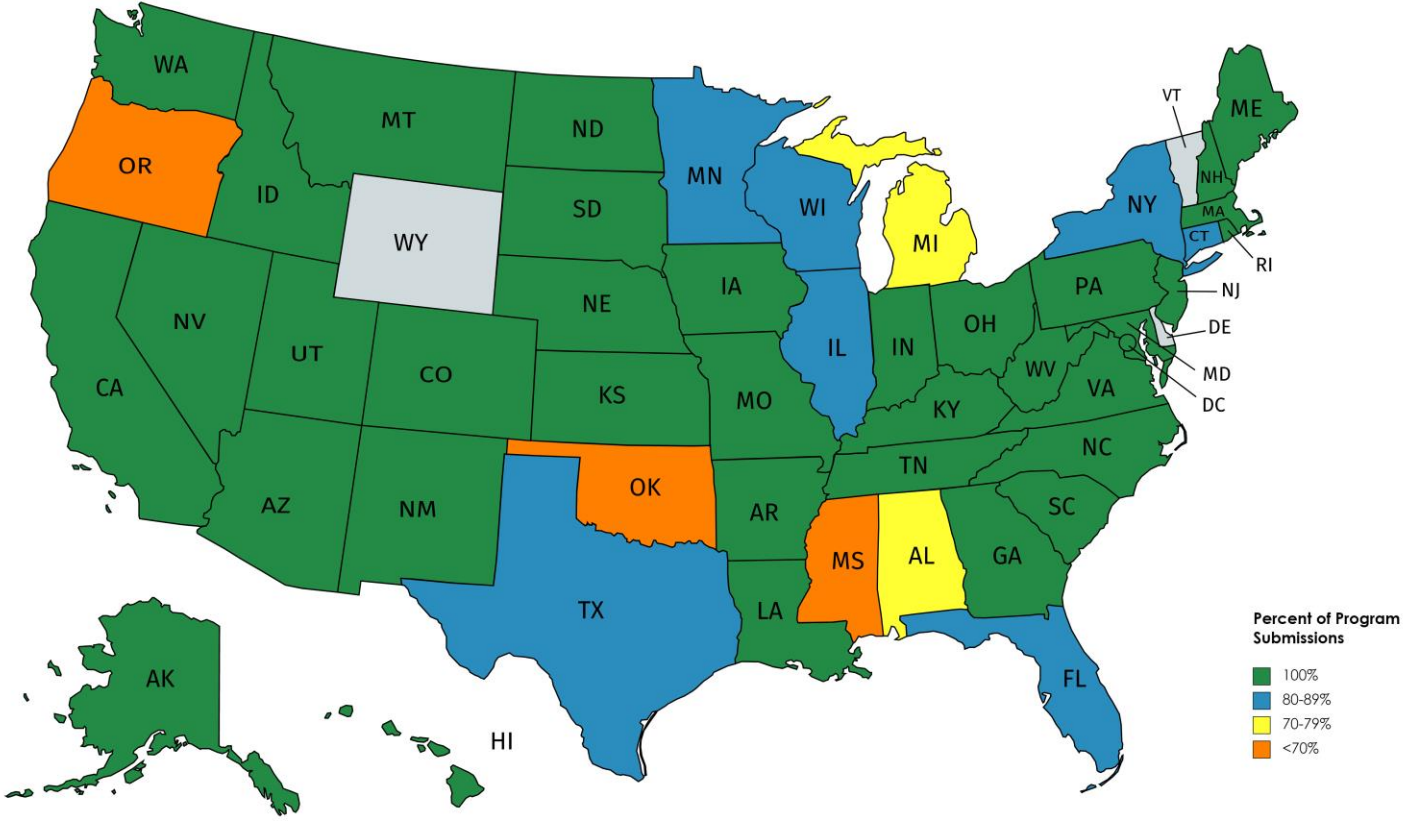- Manually extracted, descriptive data

Demographics

249/267 Accredited Programs as of March 2021

Programs who didn't submit

- 12 Provisional Accreditation March/June/September 2020
- 5 Accreditation-Continued
- 1 Accreditation-Provisional
- 1 Accreditation-Probation

All regions had submissions

Program Submission Percentage

Program Length Changes

Graduation Changes

- 59 Programs change in graduation month; 2 permanent
- Range: 1/2- 6 months
- Mean: 2.1 months; Median: 2 months; Mode: 1 month
- Many programs delayed within the same month not counted

Didactic Length

- 1 program shortened by 1 week
- 14 programs lengthened by avg of 1.5 months; Range .25-3 months
- None listed as permanent

Clinical Year Length

- 17 programs shortened by avg of 1.5 months; Range .25-3 months
- 35 programs lengthened by avg of 2.0 months (1 outlier removed); Range .5-6 months
- None listed as permanent

Delays

Matriculation Delays
- 7 programs
- Avg: 2.6 months
- Range: 2 weeks-6 months
- 4 permanent

Clinical Year Delays
- 38 programs
- Avg: 1.8 months
- Range: 1 week-4 months
- 3 permanent

Didactic Curriculum Changes

- Synchronous/Asynchronous: 99% of submitted forms

- Resequencing of courses

- Clinical/PE Skills Boot Camps

- Prosection instead of dissection anatomy

- Fall 2020/Spring 2021-Flex options

- Exam Security Software
  - ExamSoft/Examplify +/- Zoom=55
  - Respondus Lockdown=31
  - Exam ID/Exam Monitor=18
  - ExamMaster=9
  - ProctorU=7
  - Honor Lock=4
  - Proctorio=3
  - TopHat=2
  - RPNow proctoring=1
  - Examity=1
  - ExamDriver=1

Didactic Curriculum Content Software Changes

- Aquifer=13
- Complete Anatomy 3D=12
- iHuman=9
- Visible Body Software=6
- Anatomage=6
- Osmosis=3
- VH dissector=3
- vCases=2
- DxR clinician=2
- Acland Videos=2
- Access Med cases =2
- Adam Interactive=2

- Firecracker=1
- Nearpod=1
- UMedic=1
- BlueLink for Anatomy=1
- ReelDx =1
- Pocket Anatomy/Visual Anatomy=1
- eMurmur=1
- Touch of Life Technologies=1
- EMS Simulation iQ=1
- Lecturio=1
- Oxford Medical Cases=1

Didactic Curriculum Delivery Software

- Zoom=188
- WebEx=23
- Blackboard Collaborate/Ultra=27
- Canvas=21
- Panopto=19
- Google Hangout/Meets=15
- Microsoft Teams=11
- Moodle=8
- Kaltura=7
- Voice Over PowerPoints=6
- Mediasite=6
- Echo 360=3
- BigBlueButton=3

- Camtasia=2
- Brightspace/D2L=2
- YuJa=3
- TechSmith Relay=2
- Sakai=2
- Go-Pros for anatomy=1
- Screencast-O-Matic=1
- GoReact=1
- YouTube private channel=1
- Audacity=1
- Bongo=1
- Flipgrid=1
- VTEL=1
- Voice Thread=1
- MDTV=1
- Blue Jeans=1
- Google Duo=1
- Simtics=1
- Knowmia=1

Clinical Curriculum Changes

Gap analyses based on learning outcomes

Test out option

Removed Vacation weeks; changed call-back days (virtual and/or shortened)

Resequencing

| Rotation types | Capstone/Master's projects | End of program didactic courses/reviews |

Rotation Length Changes

Reduction in direct patient care hours

- NY constraints (1600 hours minimum)
- Several reported 50% reduction, split rotations

Increased length of time to complete competencies

Reduction in patient encounters/rotations

Reduction in Community Preceptorships/Final Rotations

- 4 programs reported 4-6 weeks

Weeks/Number of Rotations

- 122 programs reported
- Range of rotations applied: 1-10
- Range of weeks reduced: .5-6 weeks
- Average length 1.7 weeks

Rotation type changes

- Elimination of duplicate types of rotations:
  - e.g. IM, FM, Primary Care

- Elimination of "non-ARC" required rotations:
  - e.g. PMR, Ortho, Urgent Care, Geriatric

- Telemedicine patients:
  - e.g. Behavioral Medicine

- Non-clinical electives: virtual/academic/didactic
  - 110 programs reported
  - MAT
  - COVID-19
  - Pandemic
  - FEMA training
  - Supplemental content
  - Radiology
  - Experience in Medical Management

# Clinical Curriculum Supplemental Materials Use
n=165

- Aquifer = 89
- i-Human=53
- Rosh Review=28
- AccessMed=17
- vCases=8
- UWorld=8
- PA Excel=8
- Shadow Health=7
- WISE-MD; WISE On-call=7
- Medscape=7
- MedSim=7
- EHR Go= 6
- Kaplan Board Prep=5
- ExamMaster=5
- Lecturio=5
- ReelDx=4
- NEJM=3
- CaseX =3
- Online MedEd=3
- DxR clinician=3
- Osmosis=3

- CaseNetwork=2
- VR cases=2
- CME4Life=2
- Full Code=2
- Harvard Center for Medsim=2
- GIBLIB=2
- PAPI lecture=1
- Core Higher Ed=1
- UMedic/uMed=1
- Challenger=1
- Dynamed=1
- Coursera=1
- Amboss=1
- Touch Surgery=1
- EMS Simulation iQ =1
- Oxford Medical Simulation Avatar cases=1
- eMurmur=1
- Firecracker=1
- NextgenU.com=1
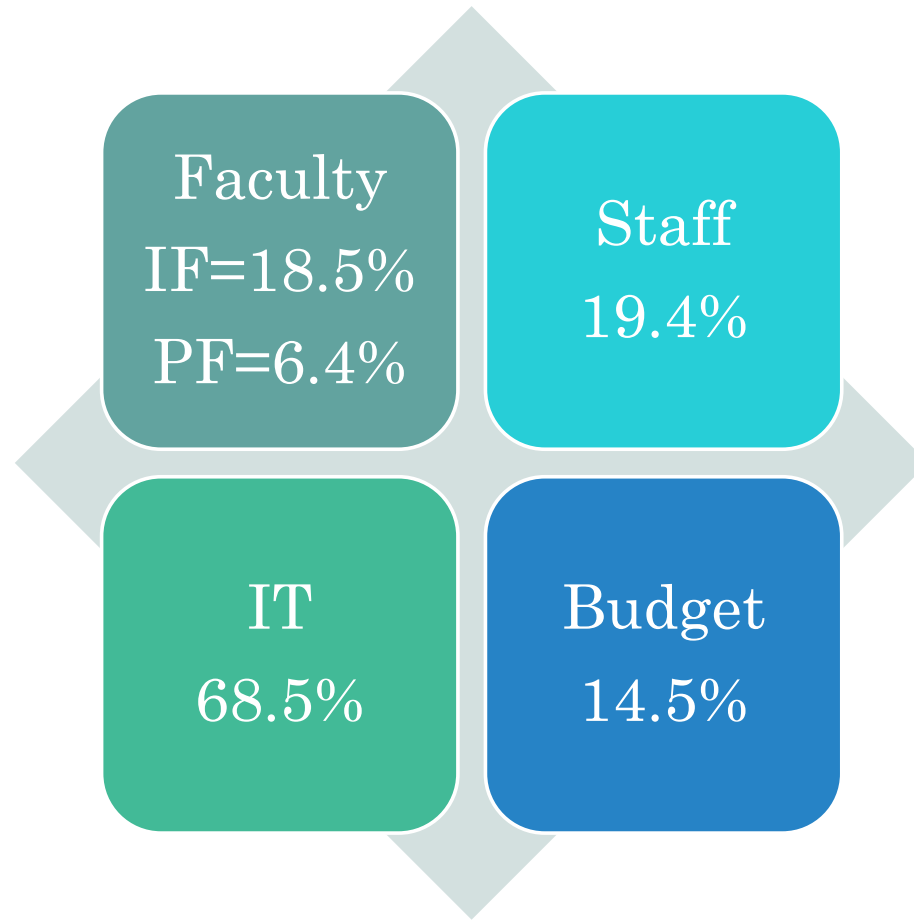
# Resource Changes
n=124 Programs

Other reported changes
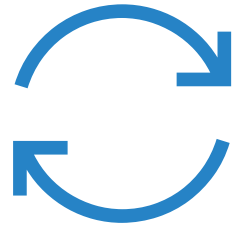
Admissions Processes

Summative Exam Processes

Program Credits

Change In:	2020										2021			Totals
	Mar	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	
Program Director	1	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	5	2	0	**30**
Interim Program Director	1	1	4	1	4	1	1	0	3	1	3	2	0	**22**
Medical Director	0	1	4	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	**18**
Interim Medical Director	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	**6**
Principal Faculty	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	**17**

Portal Data-Personnel Changes
1 Year of COVID

Portal Data-Personnel Changes

Program Director		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
	2018	2	4	6	5	3	6	2	28
	2019	2	2	5	5	4	7	3	28
	2020	1	2	3	4	3	3	2	18
Interim Program Director		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
	2018	1	2	2	1	5	3	2	16
	2019	2	3	3	0	1	4	1	14
	2020	1	1	4	1	4	1	1	13

Portal Data-Personnel Changes

Medical Director

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	0	0	4	5	4	1	2	16
2019	1	3	2	2	3	3	5	19
2020	0	1	4	3	2	1	1	12

Interim Medical Director

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
2019	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
2020	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4

Principal Faculty

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2018	2	5	4	9	11	11	2	44
2019	0	0	7	2	2	3	11	25
2020	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	13

ARC-PA Business changes

All remote since March 18, 2020 and planned through June 30, 2021

18 Mar. 2020

84 Virtual Site Visits Conducted; 13 planned through June 30, 2021

April 2021

June 2020 and Sep. 2020

Commission Meetings Virtual

Mar. 2021 and June 2021

Commission Meetings Virtual
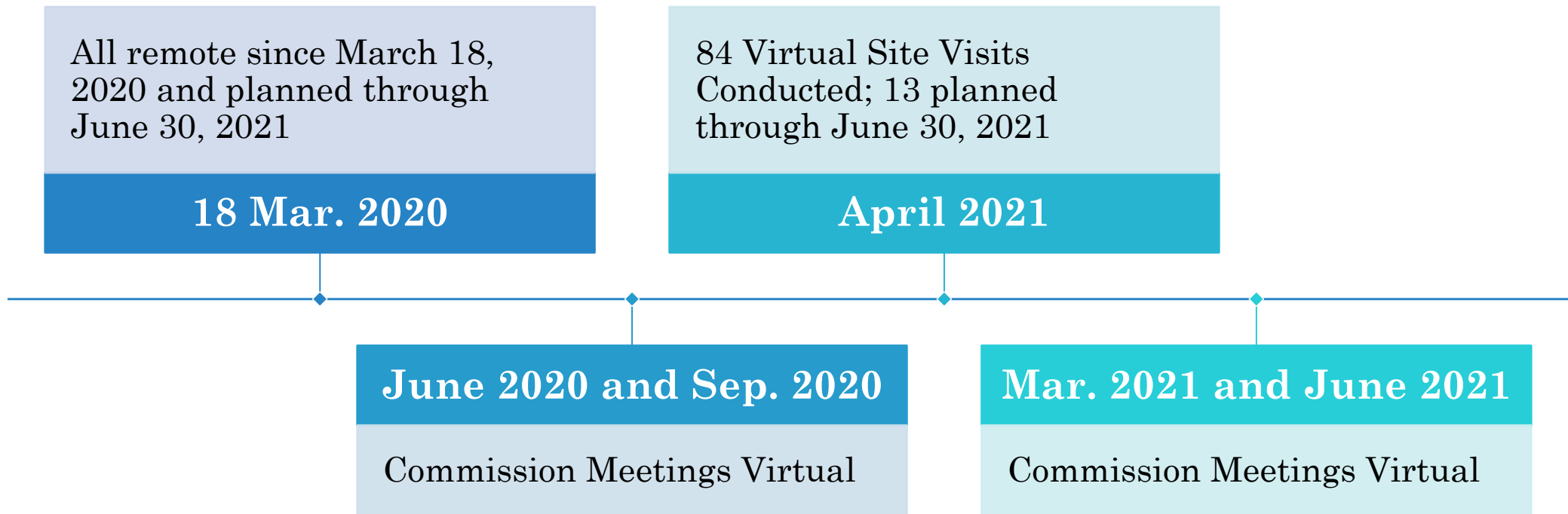
Annual Report/
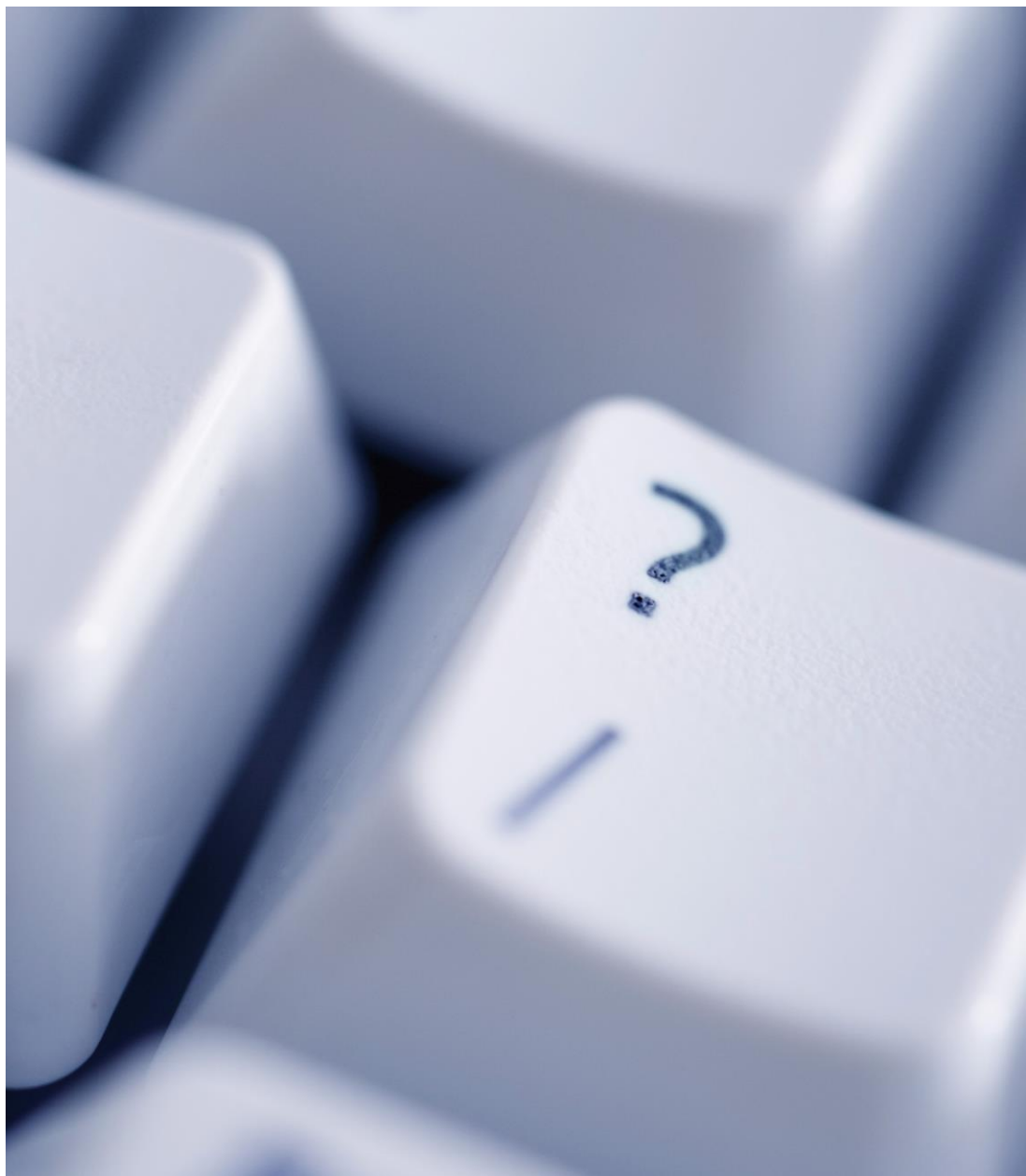# 5th Edition Changes

Budget Changes

SCPEs

Personnel Changes

Student Enrollment

Questions?

Many Thanks to ARC-PA Staff & ARC-PA Assistant Directors

References

- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. COVID-19 Change Forms. ARC-PA; St. Johns Creek, GA. 2021.

- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Portal Data. ARC-PA; St. Johns Creek, GA. 2021