

Colleagues:

March 12, 2020

Please allow this letter to promote open communication between the Council on Chiropractic Education and all accredited programs related to COVID-19, education delivery, and programmatic accreditation requirements.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) released a letter on March 5, 2020 “providing broad approval to institutions to use online technologies to accommodate students on a temporary basis, without going through the regular approval process of the Department.” In addition, USDE is “permitting accreditors to waive their distance education review requirements for institutions working to accommodate students whose enrollment is otherwise interrupted as a result of COVID-19.”

As concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 throughout the U.S. rise, many institutions and entities are developing their own unique Coronavirus guidelines and response plans. For instance, many institutions of higher education are moving to mandatory distance learning and some clinical education sites are restricting access for non-essential personnel. Subsequently, CCE programs may be impacted in a variety of ways and programs are appropriately seeking guidance from the CCE.

If a disruption in class and/or clinical schedule occurs in your program, flexible course delivery options could be implemented to maintain instructional and teaching activities. For example, if face-to-face instruction or other educational activities are **temporarily** disrupted due to campus closures, distance education may be implemented if deemed appropriate as a method to continue program delivery. In this situation, CCE approval to use distance education **temporarily** will not be necessary. Chiropractic education programs may also need to inquire with relevant state regulatory agencies regarding a temporary disruption in coursework or the use of alternative delivery methods to ensure continued compliance.

Programs are encouraged to stay abreast of COVID-19 developments through monitoring of valid sources of critical information, including:

- Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov>
- Department of Education COVID-19 Pages: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>
- National Institutes of Health COVID-19 Page: <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>
- American College Health Association COVID-19 Page: https://acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/2019_Novel_Coronavirus_2019-nCoV.aspx
- State and Local Health Authorities

CCE recognizes that accredited programs must follow institutional directives and make decisions that are best for their program when providing accommodations to students in extenuating circumstances. As these accommodations are made, be mindful of potential consequences for students in terms of degree completion, financial aid, accreditation, and licensure. In addition to the commitment to promoting flexibility in response to the COVID-19, we remain committed to assuring compliance with our accreditation standards. Therefore, within the reasonable and temporary nature of the flexibility described, programs must continue to remain compliant with all accreditation standards.

The CCE will not require programs to make Substantive Change Requests, receive prior approval, or notify the CCE at this time of temporary changes made to the program that are consistent with their own institution's COVID-19 guidelines/response plan, unless they feel that such changes create a specific situation of non-compliance with the Standards. Should a program feel that institution or program required changes may result in a specific non-compliance, they should reach out to me via email at little@cce-usa.org or by phone at 480-443-8877.

Please reach out to me if you need guidance on an individual strategy to deal with a disruption related to COVID-19. Otherwise, move forward using temporary, commonsense, approaches without worrying about CCE pre-approval. Please communicate directly with me to voice any concerns you may have or to share with us contingencies that are being put in place at your institution. This will allow us to monitor any potential impact to accredited programs and/or challenges to the program's ability to be in compliance with the CCE Standards.

CCE will continue to update accredited programs as frequently as circumstances warrant.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig S. Little". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig S. Little, Ed.D.
President/CEO

cc: Council
CCE Administrative Office