Competency Attainment and Assessment – Programmatic Accreditation Practices

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What do specialized and professional accreditors do?

• Set educational standards that protect the public interest by producing safe and competent practitioners in the students’ chosen professions or fields of study.

• Accreditation standards are profession specific and

• Developed through an inclusive process, with input from expert stakeholders in the profession:
  • practitioners,
  • employers and industry,
  • educators,
  • professional associations, and
  • other communities of interest.
Who is ASPA?

• Collaborative forum and collective voice for accreditors of specialized and professional higher education programs/schools in USA

• Established 1993

• 61 members
  • Nursing, architecture, engineering, physical therapy
  • >25,000 programs accredited

• Twice yearly conferences - professional development

• Member service – reports/guidelines on accreditation practice (e.g. competency practices)
What this session is about

• Competency attainment

• Competencies include the knowledge, skills, and values/attitudes/professional disposition necessary for safe and effective practice of a profession

• Highlights from accreditors of 3 different professions
  • Accreditation requirements for competencies addressed in curricula
  • How accreditors review and verify that programs are ensuring that program completers possess appropriate competencies
Questions – at end