



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

