



August 4, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic situation continues to present challenges to programs and to our Committees on Accreditation. As universities, colleges, and healthcare-based programs wrestle with the question of how much (or even whether) to open for the fall semester, issues such as student and faculty safety and well-being, securing clinical experiences, and which educational delivery model(s) to employ continue to dominate the conversation.

CAAHEP understands that institutions, programs, and faculty members are working diligently to find ways to continue the education of their students during this difficult time. We have hosted regular ZOOM sessions with our Committees on Accreditation (CoAs) to share how they are dealing with these challenges and receive feedback on how we can better meet their needs.

We will continue to work collaboratively with our CoAs to explore alternative pathways to assure excellence in education while maintaining compliance with the Standards. We want to assure the CoAs (and the accredited programs) that we support all of their efforts to be flexible and innovative while continuing to assure that Standards are met. Whether its virtual site visits, delaying deadlines for submission of annual reports or other short-term (or long-term) strategies to meet these goals, the CAAHEP Board of Directors expresses its firm support and gratitude for all of the creativity and hard work of our CoAs.

We will get through this and we will likely benefit from many of the innovative strategies that our CoAs and accredited programs started as temporary necessities but may well become the “new normal.”

On behalf of the CAAHEP Board and Staff, we thank you for efforts and cooperation during this time and wish you well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Mayhew', written in a cursive style.

Glen Mayhew, DHSc, NRP
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