

Monday - September 8, 2025

Westin City Center 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC

9:30 am – 10:00 am – Morning Beverages & Snacks (*not breakfast*) (Ballroom Foyer)

10:00 am – 11:00 am – Members Only Session (National Ballroom AB) – Open to all staff and board of ASPA members

Zach Waymer, Executive Director; ASPA Board of Directors; ASPA Committee Chairs and Committee Members; All ASPA Members

11:00 am – Official start of conference for all attendees

11:00 am – Noon – Improving the Efficiency of the Site Visit Process (National Ballroom AB)

- Discuss strategies for streamlining site visit preparation and review processes to reduce administrative burden for evaluators, programs, and accrediting agencies
- Differentiate what program review activities can be completed in advance of the site visit (virtually vs onsite)

Kendra Harrington, Director, Residency/Fellowship Education and Accreditation, American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education

Mary Romanello, Director, Accreditation, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

Keri Nunn-Ellison, Senior Director, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Cheryl Stum, Manager, Project Management Institute's Global Accreditation Center

Noon – 12:10 pm Awards Presentation (National Ballroom AB)

12:10 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch (National Ballroom C)

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm – Revising Accreditation Standards (National Ballroom AB)

- Identify how accreditors balance innovation with compliance in the development of standards
- Showcase how each accreditor ensures transparency and inclusivity in the revision process

Rayane AbuSabbha, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Kirsten Winek, Accreditation Counsel, American Bar Association

Michele Giannosa, Volunteer Services Manager, BMS, MLM, MLS, and PHM Program Accreditation Coordinator, National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm – Snack Break (Ballroom Foyer)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm – AI: A Legal Perspective (National Ballroom AB)

- Discuss possible uses of Generative Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) in accreditation.
- Examine the risks of using AI in accreditation, review existing accreditors’ policies, and highlight suggested approaches and considerations.

Emily Vandermade, Accreditation Coordinator, Commission on English Language Program Accreditation

John R. Przypyszny, Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm – Update from U.S. Department of Education (National Ballroom AB)

- **Nicholas Kent**, Under Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Reception (Vista Terrace)

Tuesday - September 9, 2025

7:30 am – 8:30 am – Breakfast (National Ballroom C)

8:30 am – 9:30 am – Candidacy Process – Perspectives from Different Accreditors (National Ballroom AB)

- Describe the accreditor’s role in guiding and evaluating candidacy applications
- Determine strategies for accreditation readiness
- Recognize the challenges in candidacy (or similar) processes

Rayane AbuSabbha, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Teresa Brininger, Director of Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

Jane Emmet, Senior Director, Accreditation Operations, Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

Heather Perfetti, President, Middle States Commission on Higher Education

9:45 am – 10:45 am – Site Visitor Remediation (National Ballroom AB)

- Identify the role of the agency’s Board in the selecting and training peer evaluators
- Discuss effective onboarding processes for peer evaluators
- Describe the process for developing remediation plans and dismissing peer evaluators, if necessary

Nell Ard, Chief Accreditation Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Melissa Van De Wege, Accreditation Review Manager, Commission on English Language Program Accreditation

Michelle Morgan, Manager, Program Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Public Comments: A Legal Perspective (National Ballroom AB)

- Public comments on standards review, third party comments on programs up for review, and comments that turn into complaints
- Regulatory requirements and best practices for soliciting, reviewing, and considering public comments

Nell Ard, Chief Accreditation Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

Cindy Irani, Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

My Key Takeaways***Members Session***

- 1.
- 2.

Improving...Site Visit Process

- 1.
- 2.

Revising Accreditation Standards

- 1.
- 2.

AI...

- 1.
- 2.

Under Secretary

- 1.
- 2.

Candidacy

- 1.
- 2.

Site Visitor Remediation

- 1.
- 2.

Public Comments

- 1.
- 2.

Other/Extra Space