



# Media Relations

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## **Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy achieves milestone: full accreditation status**

JOHNSON CITY – East Tennessee State University’s Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy received confirmation today from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) that it has been approved as a fully accredited college of pharmacy.

An ACPE evaluation team recently visited the Gatton College of Pharmacy campus to ensure the school met a range of criteria necessary for full accreditation status, and the ACPE voted at its board of directors meeting that the university did meet those standards. ETSU, which achieved candidate status in 2008, first became eligible for full accreditation with the ACPE when the college graduated its first class this spring.

Dr. Larry D. Calhoun, dean of the College of Pharmacy, received the news from the ACPE by phone Monday morning. It marks the second historic event for the college in two months, as ETSU conducted its first doctoral hooding ceremony May 7 and graduated the Class of 2010 a day later.

“It would be impossible to overstate the importance of this achievement for the College of Pharmacy, or the mixture of excitement and pride I experienced when I heard the words ‘full accreditation status,’” Calhoun said. “I’m proud of our faculty, our staff, the students and our leadership team. They’ve all invested enormous effort in making the Gatton College of Pharmacy a top-notch college, and full accreditation status is a measure of their hard work.

“I’m also grateful for the constant guidance and support we receive from the ETSU administration and from the many preceptors, donors and community supporters throughout the region who helped bring the college to this point.”

Colleges can only become fully accredited after demonstrating to the ACPE that they measure up to precise standards. Those measures include the appropriateness of the program’s mission and goals, the adequacy of resources and organization to meet the mission and goals, the presence of outcomes which indicate that the mission and goals are being met, and the reasonable assurance of the continued compliance with standards.

A school of pharmacy must achieve a minimum of candidate status for its graduates to take the licensing board examination.

“The achievement of full accreditation status is indicative of the culture of excellence and hard work at the College of Pharmacy,” said Dr. Wilsie Bishop, ETSU vice president for health affairs and university chief operating officer. “I congratulate Dean Calhoun, the faculty, staff and students for reaching this milestone.”

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