

DEGREE TITLE DESIGNATION DELPHI FINAL REPORT

ABSTRACT

From November 2015 to December 2016, the Accreditation Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) sponsored a formalized process to engage profession-wide input on how best to name AOM degree titles using a modified Delphi method. The Delphi method is an anonymous exercise where experts provide input to build consensus on a policy or topic. The aim was to generate a consensus statement of suggested titles for AOM degrees: Master's, Professional Doctorate (PD), and Post-Graduate Doctorate amongst representatives from seven stakeholder organizations. Five organizations completed the four rounds of surveys in an attempt to reach consensus. One withdrew after the first round, and one withdrew during the fourth round. Upon conclusion of the project, there was clear consensus on acupuncture degrees, but no consensus on oriental medicine degrees. There was consensus that the term "oriental" be excluded from degree titles, and that professional doctorates and post graduate doctorates could share the same degree title.

BACKGROUND

Patients do not easily recognize and comprehend the varying levels training amongst Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM) practitioners, as their titles and degree designations are muddled by inconsistent terminology. This heterogeneity is due, in part, to state regulatory oversight dictating degree names and licensure titles, but also due to institutional preferences. Further confounding the issue, AOM institutions can now confer up to three degrees: a Master's Degree (or Master's level diploma), a Professional Doctorate (PD) Degree, and a post-graduate Doctoral Degree. What do these degrees mean? A quick glance on social media shows that even AOM practitioners do not clearly grasp the differences. With the rollout of the PD degree—an ideal moment for rebranding—the AOM field faces a prime opportunity for clarity in name and title. Well-understood degree titles are desperately needed and may ultimately contribute to growth of the AOM profession.

Practicing acupuncturists and current AOM students are vital stakeholders in identifying designations/titles as these decisions directly impact them. Their opinions and preferences are necessary to achieve a consensus. To

AT A GLANCE

Number of organizations invited to Delphi: 7

Number of organizations who completed Delphi: 5

The Degree Title Designation Delphi found *consensus* on:

- "Master of Acupuncture was ranked as most preferred degree title for the Master of Acupuncture
- "Doctor of Acupuncture" was ranked as most preferred degree title for the First Professional Doctorate of Acupuncture
- "Doctor of Acupuncture" was ranked as most preferred degree title for Post Graduate Doctorate of Acupuncture
- "Oriental" should be excluded from degree titles
- Professional Doctorates and Postgraduate Doctorates could share degree titles

There was *no consensus* on the following degree titles:

- Master of OM
- First Professional Doctorate of OM degree
- Post Graduate Doctorate of OM degree

learn more about their viewpoints and inform the decision-making process, we propose a comprehensive project to engage key stakeholder input to determine their preferred degree designations/titles. Data will also be gathered with respect to the currently offered Master's degree, the PD, and the post-graduate Doctorate degree titles in an effort to streamline all current AOM degree title designations. We hope to achieve continuity and clarity between the three degrees simultaneously from key AOM stakeholders.

To support the community and facilitate the conversation among key AOM stakeholders, a two-phase project was initiated and underwritten by ACAOM. First, a modified Delphi consensus process was completed of AOM profession representatives to identify potential unified degree designations for all degrees. From this process, at least three designations per degree level were hoped to emerge through the consensus-building exercise which will then be included in a nationwide survey.

METHODS

Seven organizations were invited to participate in the modified Delphi. Organizations were invited by email to identify one primary point of contact and represent the interests of the organization. The AOM-related organizations invited were selected to represent English-, Chinese-, or Korean-speaking clinicians or students, and educators. The invited organizations were (in alphabetical order):

- 1) American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM);
- 2) American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA);
- 3) Association of Korean Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture of California (AKAMAC)/Korean Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association of New York (KAOMANY);
- 4) Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM);
- 5) National Federation of Chinese TCM Organizations (NFCTCMO);
- 6) National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NGAOM); and
- 7) People's Organization of Community Acupuncturists (POCA).

Inclusion criteria for an appropriate organizational representative to participate in the AOM Degree Title Delphi was an individual who:

- Has background, experience, or understanding of accreditation or degree design, and
- Is willing to respond in a timely manner (within 2 weeks) for a minimum of two and a maximum of four Delphi rounds. Each Delphi round is likely to take each respondent 20 minutes to complete an anonymous questionnaire, and
- Represents the needs and opinions of their membership, and
- Will provide their membership's opinions and views, and *not* solely their own, and
- Can read, understand, and respond in English.

Organizational representatives were asked to complete up to four (4) successive surveys from January 2016 to January 2017. The Delphi is meant to be an iterative process. Each organization counted as one response per survey. Representatives were free to engage the input of their organizations in whatever way they deemed appropriate. However, if requested, separate organizational-specific survey questionnaires were prepared to assist them. The results were tallied and averaged to provide a single response to the Delphi. Data from each organizational response was analyzed to determine consensus. The threshold for consensus was agreement amongst 70% of stakeholders. The California Institute of Integral Studies Internal Review Board reviewed and approved this study. In the following pages, each round is described and the results presented.

1. ACAOM DEGREE TITLE DESIGNATION DELPHI ROUND 1 REPORT

All invited organizations completed and submitted the survey. The survey responses were analyzed for and compiled into data tables. Further analysis counted the number of times a term or comment was provided and looked for common themes among the comments. This report is separated into three parts.

1.1 presents the list the terms provided by survey participants in data tables by degree type (Tables 1-8). Data were categorized based on responses on terms that *SHOULD* be included and terms that *SHOULD NOT* be included as:

- 1.1.1.** All responses: analysis of all responses regardless of degree type (Table 1)
- 1.1.2.** Master’s Degree: responses provided specific to the master’s degree (Tables 2-3)
- 1.1.3.** First Professional Doctorate (FPD): responses provided specific to the FPD (Tables 4-5)
- 1.1.4.** Post-Graduate Doctorate (PGD): responses provided specific to the PGD (Tables 6-7)

1.2 summarizes agreement or dissent of the terms and/or comments mentioned in the survey responses. The list of terms are organized as:

- 1.2.1.** No dissent – this means that every mention of a term was in agreement, as there was no mention of a dissenting or opposing term
- 1.2.2.** Two or more instances of dissent or opposition were mentioned
- 1.2.3.** Terms mentioned twice or more, irrespective of consensus or disagreement
- 1.2.4.** Terms mentioned only once, irrespective of consensus or disagreement

1.1. TERMS proposed by Delphi participants

This part presents the list the terms provided by survey participants in data tables by degree type (Tables 1-8). Data were categorized based on responses on terms that *SHOULD* be included and terms that *SHOULD NOT* be included as:

- 1.1. All responses – analysis of all responses regardless of degree type (Tables 1)
- 1.2. Master’s Degree (MD) – responses provided specific to the master’s degree (Tables 2-3)
- 1.3. First Professional Doctorate (FPD) – responses provided specific to the FPD (Tables 4-5)
- 1.4. Post-Graduate Doctorate (PGD) – responses provided specific to the PGD (Tables 6-7)

1.1.1 OVERALL

When asked “Is there language that your organization supports for use in degree titles or designations? This is a general question, regarding all three degree designations,” 14 separate terms were provided by Delphi participants. The term “acupuncture” was the most commonly cited by respondents.

Table 1. Terms that *SHOULD* be included, overall.

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Acupuncture	3
Chinese Medicine	2
East Asian Medicine	2
Eastern traditional medicine	1
Oriental Medicine	1
Integrative Medicine	1
Traditional Chinese Medicine	1

Traditional Medicine	1
Acupuncture Medicine	1
Chinese Herbal Medicine	1
Chinese Traditional Medicine	1
Classical 5 Element Acupuncture	1
Acupuncture & Related Therapies (ART)	1
Functional medicine	1

1.1.2 MASTER'S DEGREES

When asked about the Master's degrees, there were 9 terms provided that respondents felt should be included (Table 2), and 9 terms respondents felt should not be included (Table 3). The most common terms cited were that "Acupuncture" and should be used and "Oriental" should not be used in the Master's degree title designation.

Table 2. Master's degree: Terms that *SHOULD* be included

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Acupuncture	6
Medicine	4
Master/s	2
Functional	2
Eastern	1
Related Therapies	1
East Asian Medicine	1
Senior	1
Chinese Medicine	1

Table 3. Master's degree: Terms that *SHOULD NOT* be included

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Oriental	6
Traditional	3
Asian	2
Oriental Medicine	1
"Asian and Oriental"	1
"Any ethnic/location descriptor (Asian, Chinese, etc.)"	1
East Asian	1
Chinese Medicine	1
Medicine	1

1.1.3 FIRST PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE DEGREES

Delphi participants provided 7 terms that should be included in the FPD (Table 4), and 8 terms that should not be included (Table 5). Delphi respondents most commonly provided "Medicine" and "Acupuncture" as terms that should be included, and "Oriental" as a term that should not be included.

Table 4. First Professional Doctorate (FPD) degree: Terms that *SHOULD* be included

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Medicine	4
Acupuncture	4
“D (indicate doctoral level training)” “Doctorate” “Doctor/Doctorate”	3
Functional	2
Integrative Medicine	1
Chinese Medicine	1
East Asian Medicine	1

Table 5. First Professional Doctorate (FPD) degree: Terms that *SHOULD NOT* be included

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Oriental	5
East Asian	3
“Chinese, Japanese or Korean” “Chinese” “Chinese or any other national invoking term”	3
Asian	2
DAOM	1
DAC	1
Traditional	1
First Professional	1

1.1.4 POST-GRADUATE DOCTORATE DEGREES

Delphi participants provided 11 terms that should be included (Table 6), and 5 terms that should not be included (Table 7) in the PGD degree title designation. Respondents reported “Acupuncture” and “D” as in doctorate should be included, and “Oriental” should not be included in PGD degree title designation.

Table 6. Post-Graduate Doctorate (PGD) degree question: Terms that *SHOULD* be included.

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Acupuncture	2
D (as in doctorate)	2
Traditional	1
Post	1
DAOM	1
Graduate	1
Functional	1
DAC	1
Oriental Medicine	1
DART (Doctor of Acupuncture and Related Therapies)	1

Medicine	1
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Table 7. Post-Graduate Doctorate (PGD) degree question: Terms that *SHOULD NOT* be included

Term:	Number of times mentioned
Oriental	4
East Asian	3
Traditional	2
Asian	1
Chinese or other nation derived term	1

1.2 AGREEMENT AND DISSENT IN THE RESPONSES

This part summarizes agreement or dissent of the terms and/or comments mentioned in the survey responses. The list of terms are organized as:

- 2.1.** No dissent – this means that every mention of a term was in agreement, as there was no instance of a dissenting or opposing term
- 2.2.** Two or more instances of dissent or opposition were mentioned
- 2.3.** Terms mentioned twice or more, irrespective of consensus or disagreement
- 2.4.** Terms mentioned only once, irrespective of consensus or disagreement

1.2.1. Two or more participants shared these opinions and there were no dissenting opinions shared for these themes. These are comments where there seems to be agreement amongst the respondents.

1. “Acupuncture” or “Acupuncture Medicine” to be used in degree designations/titles.
2. Understood by the public
3. Consistently applied degree designations and titles
4. Acupuncture-only programs and acupuncture + herbal medicine programs with differing names

1.2.2. Two or more people shared these opinions and two or more people shared dissenting opinions for these themes. These are comments where disagreement becomes apparent amongst the respondents.

1. Use of the terms “East/Asian” and “Oriental” and “Chinese”
2. “Heritage” – Title should reflect that medicine originated with Asian practitioners.
3. Whether DAOM/other name should be for both doctorates or not
4. Same titles for PGD and FPD

1.2.3. Comments that were shared twice or more and are directly related to the scope of this project (note that any themes extraneous to this project are not listed here):

1. Acupuncture, Acupuncture Medicine
2. Distinct degrees offering acupuncture-only and whole-medicine programs (whether both master’s or one master’s and one doctorate, or two doctorates)
3. Uniform titles and degree designations
4. Yes, use East Asian or Asian
5. No, don’t use East Asian or Asian
6. Yes, use Oriental Medicine
7. No, don’t use Oriental Medicine
8. Yes, use Chinese / China / other nations
9. No, don’t use Chinese/China / other nations
10. Yes, honor heritage – titles should reflect the origin of the medicine
11. No, don’t honor heritage – titles should not reflect the origin of the medicine

12. No, don't use Traditional
13. Move towards the mainstream with degrees understood by the public.
14. DAOM – for both FPD and PGD
15. DAOM – not for both FPD and PGD
16. Acupuncture + herbal medicine
17. Medicine
18. Functional Medicine

1.2.4. Comments that were shared only once (in alphabetical order):

1. AOM – Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
2. Acupuncture & Functional Medicine
3. DAc and DAc(OM) – Doctor of Acupuncture and Doctor of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
4. DAcOM – Doctor of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
5. DART – Doctor of Acupuncture & Related Therapies
6. DEAM – Doctor of East Asian Medicine
7. DHS – Doctor of Health Science
8. DSTM – Doctor of Science of Traditional Medicine
9. FART – Fellows in Acupuncture and Related Therapies.
10. MAcOM – Master's of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
11. MSAc or MSAc(OM) – Master's of Science of Acupuncture or Master's of Science of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine
12. No change to existing degree titles and designations.
13. Paradox – remove “Oriental” and yet that is what is known
14. PhD – Doctor of Philosophy
15. Simple
16. SMART – Senior Masters of Acupuncture and Related Therapies
17. WWALMART – Whole/Wholistic [sic] Approach to Lay Methods in Acupuncture and Related Therapies

2. ACAOM DEGREE TITLE DESIGNATION DELPHI ROUND 2 REPORT

2.1. Summary

Seven (7) organizations representing practitioner, student, and educator stakeholders who completed the Degree Title Designation Delphi Survey 1 were invited to complete Survey 2. Six (6) organizations submitted responses to the Survey 2. One withdrew for not complying with the inclusion criteria. Responses were reviewed and analyzed for similarity in themes, also known as Titles. Titles were counted and compiled into data tables, which are presented below. In general, the Delphi process results suggest agreement amongst participants on degree titles regarding all Acupuncture degree levels, near agreement on the PGD OM degree, but disagreement regarding the Master's and FPD OM degree levels.

2.2. Results

2.2.1 Acupuncture Degree Title Designations

Summary. Delphi participants are in agreement and reached consensus on their first preferred degree title designation for the Master's, First Professional Doctorate, and Post Graduate Doctorate of Acupuncture. See Table 1. Noteworthy, the degree for titles both doctorate degrees are identical.

a. Master of Acupuncture. Of the six organizations that responded, all responded that their first preference for the Master's level of Acupuncture degree title should be "Master of Acupuncture" (6 of 6), with minor variations on the title listed 11 times as first, second, and third most preferred title designation. The variations on the title were "Master of Acupuncture, Master in Acupuncture, Master of Science of Acupuncture."¹ This suggests strong consensus for this degree title designation.

Only one other substantially different suggestion was submitted, as one organization suggested "Master in Needling Therapy" as their second preference.

Due to the strong consensus amongst all of the respondents for the title of "Master of Acupuncture," no further questions on this degree will appear in the third survey.

b. First Professional Doctorate of Acupuncture. Five (5) of six (6) organizations responded that their first preference for the First Professional Doctorate of Acupuncture degree title designation is "Doctor of Acupuncture," with minor variations on the title listed 8 times as first, second, and third most preferred title designation. The variations were "Doctor of Acupuncture" and "Doctor of Science of Acupuncture."² **This suggests qualified consensus for "Doctor of Acupuncture" as the degree title designation for the FPD of Acupuncture.**

Two other substantially different titles were submitted: 1) one organization submitted "FPD in Acupuncture Therapy" as their first preference; and 2) one organization submitted "FPD in Needling Therapy" as their second preference. Since the term "FPD" cannot be in the title, these are interpreted as Doctor of Acupuncture Therapy and Doctor of Needling Therapy, respectively.

¹ These terms were similar enough to be collapsed under the same term as "Master of Acupuncture." The differentiation between "Master of Acupuncture" and "Master of Science of Acupuncture" has historically been based on the institution's regional accreditation and/or state regulatory approval.

² These terms were similar enough to be collapsed under the same term as "Doctor of Acupuncture." The inclusion of "science" in the degree designation has historically been based on the institution's regional accreditation and/or state regulatory approval.

c. Post Graduate Doctorate of Acupuncture. Five (5) of six (6) organizations responded that their first preference for the Post Graduate Doctorate in Acupuncture degree title is “Doctor of Acupuncture,” with minor variations listed 9 times as first, second, and third most preferred. The variations were “Doctor of Acupuncture,” “Post Graduate Doctor of Acupuncture,” and “Doctor of Science of Acupuncture.”³ Since the term “Post Graduate Doctor” or “PGD” cannot be in the title, these are interpreted simply as “Doctor.” **This suggests qualified consensus for “Doctor of Acupuncture” as the degree title designation for PGD of Acupuncture** (Table 1). No other alternative title designations were submitted.

Because the degree titles submitted are similar for both the FPD and PGD in Acupuncture, the third Delphi survey will include questions to confirm consensus.

2.2.2. OM Degree Title Designations

Summary. No agreement was found amongst Delphi participants on the Master’s and FPD OM degree levels, however there was near agreement on the PGD OM degree. See Table 2.

a. Master of OM. Five (5) of six (6) participants responded this question. Two (2) responded that the degree should be “Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine,” two (2) responded with “Master of Eastern/East Medicine,” and two (2) responded with “Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine/Traditional Chinese Medicine.” **No consensus was observed on this degree title.** Acupuncture was included in the degree title in four (4) responses, suggesting growing consensus that the term “acupuncture” should be included in the degree title.

Five (5) other substantially different Master’s level titles were submitted at least once and are listed in Table 2.

b. First Professional Doctorate of OM. Five (5) of six (6) participants responded to this question. For the first preference, three (3) responded with a degree title that included a variation on “Chinese Medicine” as Doctor of Chinese Medicine, Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine or Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine; two (2) responded with a title that included a variation on Integrative Medicine, as Doctor of Integrative Medicine or Doctor Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine; and two responded with a title that included a variation on Functional Medicine, as Doctor of Functional Medicine or Doctor of Acupuncture and Functional Medicine.⁴ **No consensus was observed on this degree title.** Acupuncture was included in the degree title of five (5) responses, suggesting growing consensus that the term “acupuncture” should be included in the degree title

Five (5) other substantially different titles were submitted at least once and are listed in Table 2.

c. Post Graduate Doctorate of OM. Five (5) of six (6) participants responded to this question. Overall, five (5) of six (6) responded with “Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine,” three (3) of six (6) as their first preference for degree title designation, as well as one (1) of six (6) as their second preference, and one (1) of six (6) as their third preference. Two (2) of six (6) responded with a title that included a variation on Integrative Medicine, one “Doctor of Integrative Medicine,” and one “Doctor of

³ These terms were similar enough to be collapsed under the same term as “Doctor of Acupuncture.” The inclusion of “science” in the degree designation has historically been based on the institution’s regional accreditation and/or state regulatory approval.

⁴ Functional Medicine, Physical Medicine, and Integrative Medicine are outside the scope of ACAOMs accreditation purview. These terms were excluded in the third survey.

Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine.”⁵ **Consensus was not observed, but when similar responses are grouped, a potential consensus emerges for the degree title to remain as “Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.”**

Three (3) other substantially different titles were submitted at least once and are listed in Table 2.

2.3. Comments

Comments, if submitted at all by organizations, were generally brief, but reveal compelling evidence of the persistent divide in opinions amongst stakeholders on a few themes. The most common themes amongst comments are presented here in order of frequency:

- 1.) Discontinue use of “oriental;”
- 2.) Continue use of “oriental;”
- 3.) Use the World Health Organization’s title of “Traditional Medicine;”

Less common themes, but occurring at least twice in the comments are presented here in order of frequency:

- 1.) Use consistent degree titles across degrees/states;
- 2.) Similarity between Master’s and FPD led to questions as to each of their necessity. Two (2) comments suggested discontinuing the FPD OM, and one (1) comment suggested discontinuing the Master OM;
- 3.) Retain the term “acupuncture” in the name of all titles. This term was included in 13 proposed degree titles.

⁵ Integrative Medicine is outside the scope of ACAOMs accreditation purview. This term was excluded in the third survey.

2.4. Tables

Table 1. Acupuncture Degree Title Designation Analysis				
Degree level	Number of orgs who responded this question	Degree title	Number of orgs with this response	Total number of similar responses
Master of Acupuncture	6	Master of Acupuncture (MA)	6	11
		Master in Needling Therapy (MNT)		1
First Professional Doctorate of Acupuncture	6	Doctor of Acupuncture (DA)^a	5	8
		Doctor of Acupuncture Therapy (DAT)		1
		Doctor of Needling Therapy (DNT)		1
Post Graduate Doctorate of Acupuncture	5	Doctor of Acupuncture (DA)^a	5	9

^aThe degree titles submitted are similar for both the FPD and PGD in Acupuncture, the third Delphi survey will include further questions.

Table 2. OM Degree Title Designation Analysis			
Degree level	Number of orgs who responded to this question	Degree title	Number of similar responses
Master of OM	5	Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MAOM)	2
		Master of Eastern (MEM) / East Asian Medicine (MEAM)	2
		Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (MACM) / TCM (MTCM)	2
		Master of Traditional Medicine (MTM)	1
		Master's in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (MAHM)	1
		Master of Acupuncture and Related Therapies (MART)	1
		Master in Functional Medicine (MFM) ^a Master in Physical Medicine (MPM) ^a	1 1
First Professional Doctorate of OM	5	Doctor of Chinese Medicine (DCM) /Acupuncture & Chinese Med (DACM) / TCM (DTCM)	3
		Doctor of Integrative Medicine (DIM) /Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine (DAIM) ^a	2
		Doctor of Functional medicine (DFM) / Acupuncture & Functional Medicine (DAFM) ^a	2
		Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM)	1
		Doctor of Acupuncture and Related Therapies (DART)	1
		Doctor of Traditional Medicine (DTM)	1
		Doctor of Eastern Medicine (DEM) FPD in physical Medicine (DPM)	1 1
Post Graduate Doctorate of OM	5	Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM)	5
		Doctor of Integrative Medicine (DIM) / Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine (DAIM) ^a	2
		Doctor of Acupuncture and Related Therapies (DART)	1
		Doctor of East Asian Medicine (DEAM) Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM)	1 1

^a“Integrative Medicine,” “Functional Medicine,” and “Physical Medicine” are not within the scope of ACAOM’s accreditation.

3. ACAOM DEGREE TITLE DESIGNATION DELPHI ROUND 3 REPORT

3.1 Summary

Six (6) organizations representing practitioner, student, and educator stakeholders who completed the Degree Title Designation Delphi Survey 2 were invited to complete Survey 3. Third survey was opened on August 24 and closed on October 5, 2016. Five (5) organizations submitted responses to Survey 3. Respondents were asked to rank degree titles put forth in previous rounds according to preference and provide comments. Responses were reviewed and analyzed to determine consensus amongst participants. Rankings were counted and compiled into data tables and comments were analyzed for themes. Individual surveys were provided to help facilitate gaining input for any organizations that requested it. Three declined an individualized survey and three accepted. Each individual organization's responses were analyzed first, and the responses were then merged into a worksheet with the non-individualized responses for analysis. The comments were then analyzed. The results are presented below.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 Acupuncture Degree Title Designations.

- a. **FPD in Acupuncture:** Four of five participants (80%) ranked "Doctor of Acupuncture" as most preferred degree title. One of five selected "Other" but then reported "DAC" as their most preferred degree title. If we were to merge that response with the other four, then we have 100% consensus. The second most preferred degree title was Doctor of Acupuncture Therapy (3 of 5), the third most preferred was "Other" (3 of 5), and the fourth most preferred was Doctor of Needle Therapy (4 of 5). However, there were five separate comments that stated they did not like the options of "Doctor of Acupuncture Therapy" or "Doctor of Needle Therapy." For example, one stated, "We strongly dislike both of them and would vote against using them." Another wrote, "DAT and DNT are unacceptable." If we consider the strong consensus regarding Doctor of Acupuncture, and the strong opposition to these two terms, it confirms "Doctor of Acupuncture" as the most preferred title for this degree. **This suggests consensus for "Doctor of Acupuncture" as the degree title designation for the FPD in Acupuncture.**
- b. **PGD in Acupuncture:** Four of five (80%) participants ranked "Doctor of Acupuncture" as most preferred. The second most preferred was "Other" by four of five (80%) participants. In the comments, participants provided the following alternatives "DAC" or Doctor of Acupuncture, "PDA," which is unclear,⁶ "DAOM" or Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, and "DSA" or Doctor of Science in Acupuncture, one each.⁷ While the rankings suggest the Delphi respondents support the same title for both doctoral degrees in Acupuncture, the comments suggest substantial differences in opinions. In the comments analysis, five responded with comments saying the titles should be different for the PGD and FPD in Acupuncture. Four comments said the title should be the same. Another two commenters were not in favor of changing the name because of the established brand of DAOM. **This suggests no consensus for "Doctor of Acupuncture" as the degree title designation for the PGD in Acupuncture.**

3.2.2.OM Degree Title Designations

- a. **Master in OM: There was no consensus on this degree title.** Four of five (80%) responded with "Other" as most preferred. The second most preferred is unclear. Three (60%) reported that Master of East Asian Medicine (MEAM) was the third most preferred. Three (60%) ranked Master of Oriental Medicine (MOM) as the fourth most preferred degree title. Master of Chinese Medicine (MCM) rankings were evenly distributed, one (20%) ranked it most preferred, two (40%) ranked it as second most preferred, and two (40%) ranked it fourth most preferred. The titles submitted under "Other" were: Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine by two respondents (40%); and Master of Eastern Medicine, Master of Science in Traditional OM, Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, Master of Acupuncture Medicine, Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Master of Acupuncture and

⁶ If PDA was an acronym for Post Graduate Doctorate of Acupuncture, this would not be interpreted as a viable option since the terms "Post Graduate" cannot be in the title.

⁷ Some groups provided more than one title under "Other." Titles that submitted by more than one group were tabulated first. If a title showed up more than once within one group, it was only counted once.

Herbal Medicine, Master of Science in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, Master of Korean Medicine, Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine, one each.

There were several comments regarding this degree title and enrich the discussion on this degree title.

- Six (6) comments included a statement that “Acupuncture should be in the title.” One commenter wrote, *“Acupuncture connects our medicine to public/media/mainstream.”*
- Five (5) wrote that titles with the term “Chinese” do not capture the breadth of training, with one stated, *“Studies are not only Chinese.”*
- Four (4) recommended we “avoid using the term Oriental,” with one succinctly writing, *“Remove Oriental”* and another stating, *“Oriental is a federally prohibited term.”*
- Three (3) wrote that the public is familiar with the term acupuncture, for example, *“acupuncture is our brand, and as such, must be included at the bening (sic) of any degree title.”*

- b. FPD in OM: There was no consensus on this degree title.** Four of five (80%) responded with “Other” as most preferred. The second most preferred was Doctor of Chinese Medicine (4 of 5, 80%). The “Other” titles offered were: Doctor of East Asian Medicine/Eastern Medicine (2, 40%), and Doctor of Traditional Medicine/Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (2, 40%). Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, Doctor of Chinese Medicine, Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine, Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (DTCM), Doctor of Oriental Medicine, Doctor of Science in Oriental Medicine, and Doctor of Traditional Medicine (DTM), one each (20%).⁸

The comments on this degree title were also rich and many in number.

- Five (5) commenters suggested the need to keep “Acupuncture” in the title. One person wrote, *“Any title that does not use “Acupuncture” is unacceptable and ignores the tremendous brand recognition we’ve developed around that term.”*
- Three (3) comments suggested there be one title for both OM doctoral degrees, with one writing, *“we feel that having separate degree titles for the different paths to completing a doctoral degree is confusing to the public. Therefore, though we understand that the FPD is a different type of learning than the current DAOM, we feel that they should both receive the same designation upon graduation.”*
- Two (2) commenters recommend we use TCM with one writing, the *“Same title used in China. TCM is a very well-recognized term nationally and globally.”*
- Two (2) more commenters say that Chinese doesn’t capture the breadth of training. One wrote, *“The use of “Chinese” leaves out the contribution of Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, et al. traditions in the development of acupuncture medicine. There are other compelling reasons not to attach our evolving medicine with the term “Chinese.”*

- c. PGD in OM: There was no consensus on this degree title.** Four of five (80%) responded with “Other” as most preferred. The second most preferred was “Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine” by four of five (80%). The “Other” titles offered were: Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (2, 40%) and Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (2, 40%). One each (20%) for: Doctor of Acupuncture, Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Doctor of Health Science, Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional medicine, and PDATM, which is unclear.

Additional comments under this degree title provide more clarity.

- There is strong opposition to using “Oriental” in degree titles (6 comments). One commenter wrote, *“public opinion has turned against the use of the term “Oriental,” and it should be avoided in our titles.”*
- Five (5) comments suggest different degree titles for the doctoral degrees in OM. A commenter wrote, *“there is a need for two separate titles to distinguish the degrees.”*

- d. Agreement on terms.** Preference for the following terms included in degree titles. Responses were translated into ordinal (numerical) values. Means were calculated from response data. Strongly agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral/No preference = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly disagree = 1. Results were then rounded to the nearest whole number.

- On average, respondents strongly agreed with including the term Acupuncture in degree titles (Mean=5). This will be added to all degree titles.
- They agreed with the inclusion of Traditional Medicine (Mean=4). Traditional Medicine will remain.

⁸ Within the same group, Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine was mentioned three times, Doctor of Chinese Medicine two times, and Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine two times.

- There were neutral on the term “Oriental Medicine” (Mean=3) in degree titles. When put in context with the comments, it suggests OM is least favorable in degree titles. All degree titles with OM will be removed.
- e. **Additional comments.** Participants provided numerous comments in the final comments question of the survey.
- Five participants suggested we not use “Traditional Medicine.” One wrote, “*Traditional medicine is not accurate enough. There are traditional medicines of the Americans, Africa, etc.*” Another wrote, “*Traditional Medicine is unclear as to what it referencing. Many world traditions.*”
 - Four (4) commenters recommended avoiding the use of “Oriental,” but were unclear as to a good alternative.
 - Two (2) stated acupuncture should be in the title
 - Two (2) wrote we should not use “Chinese Medicine.”
 - And there was one (1) comment each on the following:
 - Use Traditional Chinese Medicine in title
 - Only use Oriental in the DAOM title
 - Use Eastern medicine
 - Do not use East Asian
 - Keep degree titles the same between PGD and FPD doctorates
 - Keep degree titles separate between PGD and FPD doctorates

3.3 TABLES

Degree level	Number of Organizations who responded	Most Preferred	Second Most Preferred	Third Most Preferred	Fourth Most Preferred
First Professional Doctoral in Acupuncture	5	Doctor of Acupuncture (80%)	Doctor of Acupuncture Therapy (60%)	Other: Doctor of Acupuncture (2); 1 each: Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (DAcM); Doctor of Science in Acupuncture (DSA); Doctor of Oriental Medicine (DOM)	Doctor of Needling Therapy (80%)
Post Graduate Doctorate in Acupuncture	5	Doctor Acupuncture (80%)	Other (80%): “DAc” Doctor of Acupuncture, PDA, DAOM , DSA	—	—

Table 2. OM Degree Title Designation Analysis

Degree level	Most Preferred	Second Most Preferred	Third Most Preferred	Fourth Most Preferred
Master in OM	<p>Other (80%):</p> <p>Two votes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine, <p>One vote each for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Eastern Medicine, • Master of Science in Traditional OM, • Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, • Master of Acupuncture Medicine, • Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, • Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, • Master of Science in Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, • Master of Korean Medicine, • Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine 	Unclear	Master of East Asian Medicine (MEAM, 60%)	Master of Oriental Medicine (MOM, 60%)
First Professional Doctorate in OM	<p>“Other” (80%):</p> <p>Two votes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of East Asian Medicine/Eastern Medicine • Doctor of Traditional Medicine/Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine <p>One vote for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, • Doctor of Chinese Medicine, Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine, • Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (DTCM), • Doctor of Oriental Medicine, Doctor of Science in Oriental Medicine, and • Doctor of Traditional Medicine (DTM) 	Doctor of Chinese Medicine (80%)	—	—
Post Graduate Doctorate of OM	<p>“Other” (80%):</p> <p>Two votes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine • Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine <p>One vote for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Acupuncture, • Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, • Doctor of Health Science, • Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional medicine, • PDATM 	Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (80%)	—	—

4. ACAOM DEGREE TITLE DESIGNATION DELPHI SURVEY 4 REPORT

4.1 SUMMARY

The overarching goal of this project was to gain input from stakeholders on AOM degree titles through a maximum of four Delphi rounds of surveys. After four Delphi rounds, stakeholders agreed that the degree titles should be Master of Acupuncture for master's level, and Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) for the FPD and PGD in acupuncture designations. Stakeholders did not agree on a degree title for *any* of the OM degrees. This was similar to the third pass. In response to feedback from the commission, the final survey asked participants to rank degree titles according to preference AND rate how agreeable was a provided degree title. This method produced a more nuanced picture in areas where there was no consensus.

The fourth and final pass of the ACAOM Degree Title Designation was completed January 4, 2017. The objective of the fourth survey was to assess the level of agreement amongst practitioner, educator, and student stakeholders on ACAOM degree title designations. Six stakeholder organizations were invited to participate in the final pass of the ACAOM Degree Title Designation Delphi. Organizations were sent the third Delphi results with instructions to read the report before responding to the survey. The report was intended to inform their responses to the last round.

The FPD and PGD in acupuncture degree titles are identical, unfortunately. The participants were neutral on their preference to make them different or the same. The first preference for both degrees was the Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) degree title. Participants strongly agreed that Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) should be the degree title for the FPD in Acupuncture and agreed it should be the degree title for the PGD in Acupuncture. See Tables 1 and 2.

Results on the OM degrees starkly differed from the acupuncture designations outcomes. There was no agreement amongst rankings for any of the degree designations. When rated, however, there were some OM degree titles that were found to be agreeable with a mean rating score between 3.5 and 4.4. When participants were asked if a degree title should be the one for the master's level degree of OM, they agreed with Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (M.A.T.C.M), Master of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (M.A.E.A.M), and Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (M.A.C.M.) as options. They disagreed with Master of Acupuncture and Korean Medicine (M.A.K.M.) as an option. See Table 3.

Regarding the FPD of OM and PGD of OM, participants agreed the degree titles should be different. While there was no consensus on the degree title rankings, they agreed Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.) should be the degree title for the FPD of OM when rated. See Table 4. There was also no consensus on the degree title ranking for the PGD of OM. However, they did agree when asked if Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (D.A.E.A.M) and Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.) should be the degree title for PGD. They disagreed that Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) and Doctor of Health Science (D.H.S.) should be options for this degree title. See Table 5.

4.2. DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

The fourth survey assessed agreement amongst remaining domains where no consensus was found in previous rounds. See Attachment 1. In response to the conflict between comments and responses regarding degree titles, participants were asked if the degree titles should be the same or different for the First Professional Doctorate (FPD) and Post Graduate Doctorate (PGD) of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (OM).

Participants were asked to rank degree titles in order of their organization’s preference where there was no consensus in previous Delphi rounds and rate how much they agreed with the title. The second domain of rating degree titles was added in response to comments in previous rounds where participants didn’t want to appear to “endorse” a title by ranking it when they did not agree with or like it. The ability to rate titles was added to gauge agreement on the degree title provides a more nuanced interpretation on title agreement. A final opportunity for comment was also provided for each degree level and designation and the overall project to participants.

4.3. METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Rankings were analyzed by calculating the *mode* (the number most frequently found in the rankings for that specific degree title). Votes were then counted to assess level of consensus. The threshold for consensus was agreement amongst 70% of stakeholders, i.e., at least four or more of five possible votes were necessary to achieve consensus. If there was a tie between titles, the *mean* (average of rankings) was assessed, and the lower average of rankings broke the tie. If there was still no difference, the *mean rating* was consulted, and the highest mean rating broke the tie. Ratings were averaged to determine the level of agreement for each degree title. (See Mean Rating Scale). Comments were counted and analyzed for themes.

Mean Rating Scale

Level of agreement	Mean rating reference values
Strongly agree	>4.5
Agree	3.5 – 4.4
No preference	2.5 – 3.4
Disagree	1.5 --2.4
Strongly disagree	<1.4

4.4. RESULTS

Six organizations were invited to participate. Five organizations submitted responses; one withdrew due to disagreement with Delphi methodology. Three organizations engaged their membership through their own means and submitted responses to one survey link via their primary point of contact. Of those, two engaged their membership privately, and one did so publicly without the report to inform their membership. As a courtesy, three organizations were provided with a separate survey link (one survey per organization) to facilitate engaging their membership for input. Of the latter, the responses submitted were analyzed and provided to the organization.

Organizations were allowed to engage their membership in whatever way they found suitable. An online survey web link was provided and open for submissions on November 16, 2016. The deadline was set for the surveys to close on December 16, 2016. The survey settings required adjustment to allow for repeat answers on different titles on three ratings questions, and the deadline was then extended to January 4, 2017. If a participant had previously submitted a response, but wanted to change it, they were allowed to submit again. When two submissions from the same respondent appeared, only responses submitted after 12/13/16 would be used. Surveys were hosted on the ACAOM Survey Monkey account. ACAOM commissioners and staff were blinded to the surveys.

Three organizations engaged their membership through their own means and submitted to one survey link via their primary point of contact. Of those, two engaged their membership privately, and one did so publicly. As a courtesy, three organizations were provided with a separate link to facilitate engaging their membership for input. Of the latter, the responses submitted would be analyzed and provided to the organization.

4.5. ACUPUNCTURE DEGREE TITLES

In general, organizations did not report a preference for or against separating the degree titles for the FPD and PGD in Acupuncture degree titles. They responded to the question, what is your organization's preference regarding the FPD & PGD degree titles in Acupuncture, as follows:

Statement	Rating (Mean rating)
The degree title should be different	No preference (2.6)
The degree title should be the same	No preference (3.4)

4.5.1. FPD of Acupuncture

All organizations agreed on the degree titles for the FPD of Acupuncture, generating 100% consensus. The Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) was the most preferred degree title for the FPD of Acupuncture, with all organizations in strong agreement. The Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (D.Ac.M.) was second preference, with all organizations in agreement. The third most preferred via ranking was Doctor of Science of Acupuncture (D.S.A.), but most organizations disagreed with it as a degree title on the rating scale. Comments are included below verbatim, which numbered three and no themes were found.

Table 1. FPD of Acupuncture Ranking and Rating Outcomes

Ranking of most preferred FPD in Acupuncture	Degree Title	Number of votes	Should this title be the degree title for the FPD in Acupuncture?	Mean rating
First Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.)	5 of 5	Strongly agree	4.6
Second Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (D.Ac.M.)	5 of 5	Agree	3.8
Third Preference	Doctor of Science of Acupuncture (D.S.A.)	5 of 5	Disagree	2.2

4.5.2 Comments

Three comments were submitted and are copied here verbatim.

- These degrees should be consolidated;
- KISS;
- We would like to see a D.ACM to include the Chinese Medicine component of our degreesz (sic)

4.5.3. PGD in Acupuncture

Participants ranked their most preferred degree title for the PGD in Acupuncture was Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) with agreement amongst all the organizations signaling 100% consensus. The second most preferred was Doctor of Science of Acupuncture (D.S.A.), but with participants neutral on it as a PGD in Acupuncture degree title. There were two comments, provided below verbatim. Both support the concept of keeping the DAC for both the PGD and FPD in Acupuncture.

Table 2. PGD of Acupuncture Ranking and Rating Outcomes

Ranking of most preferred PGD in Acupuncture	Degree Title	Number of votes	Should this title be the degree title for the PGD in Acupuncture?	Mean rating
First Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.)	5 of 5	Agree	4.4

Second Preference	Doctor of Science of Acupuncture (D.S.A.)	5 of 5	No preference	2.6
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4.5.4 Comments

Two comments were submitted and copied here verbatim.

-These degrees should be consolidated.

-I voted on D.Ac. for both the first professional and post graduate titles, as these were the only acceptable choices given.

4.6. OM DEGREE TITLES

4.6.1. Master of OM

No consensus was achieved on the Master degrees of OM. Participants ranked Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (M.A.T.C.M), Master of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (M.A.E.A.M), and Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (M.A.C.M.) as first, second, and third most preferred, respectively. But, there were not enough votes for each to achieve the minimum threshold for consensus. All participants agreed these top three should be degree titles for the Master of OM. Only one comment was submitted.

Table 3. Master of OM Ranking and Rating Outcomes

Ranking of most Master of OM	Degree Title	Number of votes	Should this title be the degree title for the Master of OM?	Mean rating
First Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (M.A.T.C.M)	2 of 5	Agree	3.8
Second Preference	Master of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (M.A.E.A.M)	3 of 5	Agree	3.67
Third Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (M.A.C.M.)	2 of 5	Agree	3.67
Fourth Preference	Master of Acupuncture Medicine (M.Ac.M.)	2 of 4	No preference	2.75
Fifth Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine (M.A.E.M)	1 of 5	No preference	3.4
Sixth Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (M.A.H.M)	1 of 5	No preference	2.8
Seventh Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (M.A.T.M.)	1 of 5	No preference	2.6
Eighth Preference	Master of Acupuncture and Korean Medicine (M.A.K.M.)	1 of 5	Disagree	1.5

4.6.2 Comments

Only one comment was submitted and copied here verbatim

If this degree persists, it needs to be shorted and differentiated in the context of the doctorates.

Participants agreed that the FPD and PGD degree titles should be different while they were neutral whether they should be the same. Responses to the questions, what is your organization's preference regarding the FPD & PGD degree titles of OM, are as follows

Statement

The degree title should be different
 The degree title should be the same

Rating (Mean rating)

Agree (3.8)
 No preference (2.6)

4.6.3. FPD of OM

There was a great deal of disagreement amongst participants on this degree title. Participants ranked Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.) as their most preferred degree title for the FPD of OM, with agreement amongst them. The second most preferred was Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (D.A.T.C.M) with no preference when rating. The third most preferred was Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (D.A.T.M.) while disagreeing that it should be the FPD of OM degree title. Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (D.A.E.A.M), Doctor of Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine (D.A.E.M), and Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (D.Ac.M.) were ranked as fourth, fifth, and sixth most preferred with no preference on their rating. There were two comments submitted, provided verbatim below, with no common themes between them.

Table 4. FPD of OM Ranking and Rating Outcomes

Ranking of most preferred FPD of OM	Degree Title	Number of votes	Should this title be the degree title for the FPD of OM?	Mean rating
First Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.)	2 of 5	Agree	3.75
Second Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (D.A.T.C.M)	2 of 5	No preference	3.4
Third Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (D.A.T.M.)	2 of 5	Disagree	2.4
Fourth Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (D.A.E.A.M)	3 of 5	No preference	3.2
Fifth Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine (D.A.E.M)	2 of 5	No preference	2.8
Sixth Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (D.Ac.M.)	2 of 5	No preference	2.75

4.6.4 Comments

Two comments were submitted and copied here verbatim.

- Doctor of Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine should be considered per the earlier Delphi results and the interest from a significant portion of the community.
- We wiuld (sic) like to see SACM

4.6.5. PGD of OM

Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (D.A.E.A.M) was the most preferred degree title with agreement that it should be the degree title for the PGD of OM. The second most preferred Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (D.A.T.C.M) and rated neutral (no preference) as a degree title. Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.) was the third most preferred and rated agree that it should be the degree title for PGD of OM. Participants were neutral on Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (D.A.T.M.) and ranked it as fourth most preferred. Participants disagreed with Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) and Doctor of Health Science (D.H.S.) and ranked them

fifth and sixth most preferred. One comment was submitted, but the DAIM was excluded in the second survey from the options since ACAOM does not have authorization to grant IM degrees.

Table 5. PGD of OM Ranking and Rating Outcomes

Ranking of most preferred PGD of OM	Degree Title	Number of votes	Should this title be the degree title for the PGD of OM?	Mean rating
First Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (D.A.E.A.M)	2 of 5	Agree	3.6
Second Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (D.A.T.C.M)	2 of 5	No preference	3
Third Preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (D.A.C.M.)	2 of 5	Agree	3.6
Fourth preference	Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (D.A.T.M.)	2 of 5	No preference	3
Fifth preference	Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.)	2 of 5	Disagree	2.25
Sixth preference	Doctor of Health Science (D.H.S.)	3 of 5	Disagree	2

4.6.6 Comments:

Only one comment was submitted and copied here verbatim:

Doctor of Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine should be considered per the earlier Delphi results and the interest from a significant portion of the community.

4.7. FINAL COMMENTS

There were only two final comments submitted and are copied below, verbatim.

-The AAAOM conducted a survey of members and non-members from 11/28/16 to 12/15/16. There were 914 respondents, 30% were male and 70% female. The average age of the respondent was 47 but a significant number were over 60. 76.5% were practitioners, 8.6% DAOM students, 5.2% FPD students, and 9.7% master's students. 75% of the respondents had some form of NCCAOM certification, 21% were current AAAOM members and 42% former AAAOM members. The vast majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the field should consolidate degree titles (69%), 21% were not sure, 10% disagreed. This is consistent with the AAAOM's 2012 survey where 63.5% of the 1327 respondents agreed with this statement (16.7% disagreed, and 20% were unsure).

-We think the Health Sciences title is misleading & not appropriate for our profession (sic)

This report was prepared by the Primary Investigator, Dr. Lee Hullender Rubin, DAOM, LAc, FABORM, and submitted to the ACAOM Delphi Project Committee for approval.