



Position Paper Title: Multi-Purpose Institution Clarification
Approved By: ACAOM Executive Committee
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Related Policies:

References:

Responsible Official: ACAOM Executive Director

ACAOM Scope of Accreditation:

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM or Commission) is the accrediting agency *recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation and pre-accreditation (“Candidacy”) throughout the United States of professional non-degree and graduate degree programs, including professional doctoral programs, in the field of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine, as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.*

Multi-Purpose Institutions

When an accreditable acupuncture or Oriental medicine (AOM) program is offered in a non-ACAOM accredited institution that also offers programs in other fields, the Commission may review the acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine program. Should the program meet ACAOM Standards and Criteria for Accreditation, the program may achieve programmatic accreditation only. (emphasis added)

Programmatic accreditation by ACAOM does not make the AOM program (or any other program) in the multi-purpose institution eligible to participate in federal Title IV financial aid programs. To be eligible to administer Title IV financial aid, the institution must also achieve institutional accreditation from a multi-purpose, institutional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

ACAOM will only accept initial applications for institutional pre-accreditation/accreditation from institutions that meet the following prerequisites:

1. Hold formal authorization from the appropriate state agency to offer graduate-level education in Acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine, and
2. Offer only those programs that fall within ACAOM’s scope of accreditation (i.e., professional non-degree and graduate degree programs, including professional doctoral programs, in the field of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine).

ACAOM postgraduate and professional doctoral programs, and credit-bearing acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) related certificate programs for which ACAOM has published standards and criteria, are only available to institutions that have achieved initial ACAOM accreditation and are fully compliant with all Commission standards/criteria, policies and procedures.

If an ACAOM-accredited/pre-accredited, single-purpose, freestanding institution becomes a multi-purpose institution (i.e., also offers a program in a field other than acupuncture or Oriental medicine for which ACAOM has published Standards and Criteria for Accreditation or a program that is not approved by ACAOM), ACAOM's accreditation will convert to programmatic accreditation. As such, the eligibility of the institution or program for Title IV participation may be suspended by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Revision History

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By