



Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

8941 Aztec Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55347 || tel 952-212-2434 || fax 952-657-7068 || info@acaom.org

Amendment to ACAOM Standards

English Language Competency

Relevant Criteria:

Master's Programs: Criterion 6.08 – English Language Competency

Postgraduate Doctorate Programs (DAOM): Criterion 6.07 – English Language Competency

Professional Doctorate Programs (PD): Criterion 5.02 – Standard Admissions, subsection E

Notification Date to Programs: March 30, 2018

Effective dates listed below

Consistent with the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (“ACAOM” or “Commission”) *Standards Review Policy* and in consideration of current federal requirements under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) the Commission reviewed information received during the public comment period and adopted revisions to its programmatic criteria related to English language competence requirements for program admission at the Commission’s 21-24 February 2018 meeting. Acknowledging the potential for impacting student recruitment and matriculation, the Commission has adopted a staged implementation.

The following revisions were made to the Commission’s *Standards and Criteria Manual: Master’s Level and Postgraduate Doctoral [DAOM]* and its *Accreditation Standards: Professional Doctorate (PD) in Acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine* effective as of their respective revision dates.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019

FOLLOWING ARE THE *ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY* REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS MATRICULATING IN **MASTER'S LEVEL AND POSTGRADUATE DOCTORAL [DAOM] PROGRAMS** EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019:

English language competency must be required of all students seeking admission to the program. This may be demonstrated by one of the following means:

- (a) The student must have completed a two-year (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) baccalaureate or graduate level, English-based education in an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. English must have been the language of instruction and the language of the curriculum used;
- (b) For programs taught in English, the student must score a total score of at least 61 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT) including a minimum speaking exam score of 26 and a minimum listening exam score of 22, or an overall band score of level 6 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam;
- (c) For programs taught in Chinese or Korean, the student must score a total score of at least 45 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT) including a minimum speaking exam score of 18 and a minimum listening exam score of 15, or an overall band score of level 5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam

Key points:

- All students matriculating on or after January 1, 2019 must demonstrate English language competency as a **condition of admission**.
- TOEFL and IELTS score requirements remain unchanged from the current criteria.

FOLLOWING ARE THE *ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY* REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS MATRICULATING IN **PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE [PD] PROGRAMS** ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019

English language competency must be demonstrated by all students seeking admission to the program. The program must confirm required oral and written English competency via one of the following:

- 1) Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT)
Acceptable scores: TOEFL iBT total score – 80 and TOEFL iBT speaking score – 26; or
- 2) International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
Acceptable scores: IELTS overall band score 6.5 (Academic Format) and IELTS spoken band score – 8.0;
- 3) The student must have completed a two-year (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) baccalaureate or graduate level, English-based education in an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. English must have been the language of instruction and the language of the curriculum used.

Key points:

- All students matriculating on or after January 1, 2019 must demonstrate English language competency as a **condition of admission** (emphasis added).
- TOEFL iBT score requirements are unchanged; paper test score was removed.
- The IELTS option was added to the criterion.
- Submitting evidence of U.S. accredited studies to demonstrate English competency was added.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

FOLLOWING ARE THE *ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY* REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS MATRICULATING IN **MASTER'S LEVEL, POSTGRADUATE DOCTORAL [DAOM], AND PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE [PD] PROGRAMS** ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2020.

English language competency must be demonstrated by all students seeking admission to the program. The program must confirm required oral and written English competency via one of the following:

- 1) Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (TOEFL® iBT)
Acceptable scores: TOEFL iBT total score – 80 and TOEFL iBT speaking score – 26; or
- 2) International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
Acceptable scores: IELTS overall band score 6.5 (Academic Format) and IELTS spoken band score – 8.0;
- 3) The student must have completed a two-year (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) baccalaureate or graduate level, English-based education in an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. English must have been the language of instruction and the language of the curriculum used.

Key points:

- Acceptable scores are identical across all ACAOM graduate-level degree programs, and are consistent with comparable health professions under the Federal Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).