

ACAOM Program Performance Data Thresholds

At its October 2017 meeting, the Commission approved changes to thresholds for program performance statistics, and technical corrections to various Criteria regarding the program performance statistics that ACAOM collects and how ACAOM utilizes that data for program review. To date, ACAOM has relied upon peer evaluators to validate program performance statistics and determine compliance or noncompliance with the current relevant criteria (6.04 for Master's-level and professional doctorate [PD] programs; 6.9 for postgraduate doctoral [DAOM] programs).

Going forward, ACAOM staff will review these data on a rolling basis and engage programs as needed based upon performance. These data are received annually, either through the annual reporting process or directly from data providers such as NCCAOM.

These changes will allow peer evaluators to remain focused on core elements of site visit review, rather than following up on statistical data already in the Commission's possession.

The changes are effective as of October 21, 2017 and will be implemented as part of the Commission's February 2018 comprehensive review cycle. ACAOM staff will work with programs and institutions currently engaged in either a self study or site visit process, on an as needed basis, to address the evaluation of program performance data. ACAOM staff will also begin the process of making related non-substantive technical changes and updates to the related standards and criteria.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE THRESHOLDS

The Commission adopted the following thresholds for program performance statistics, applicable to all programs and degree levels. These modifications in the thresholds were made based on review of similar standards promulgated by other specialized accreditation agencies focused on graduate-level health care disciplines:

- **Graduation rate**: The program's three-year rolling average for graduation rate *must equal or exceed 60%*.
- **NCCAOM examination pass rate**: The program's three-year rolling average for NCCAOM examination pass rates among first-time test takers *must equal or exceed 65% in total and for all subsections of the examination*.
- **State examination pass rate**: The program's three-year rolling average for comprehensive state licensure examinations *must equal or exceed 60%*

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO CRITERIA

The Commission adopted the following technical corrections in the Criteria, to facilitate implementation of this change in review approach and the adopted corrections in performance thresholds, described above:

Criterion 6.9 of the current DAOM Standards shall be changed to read as follows:

- A. Program performance data must be used to assess the extent to which the program is achieving its goals and learning outcomes. Programs shall provide to ACAOM or ACAOM shall receive performance data on an annual basis, including but not limited to graduation rate.
- B. If a program falls below published performance data thresholds, ACAOM shall review program performance to determine if the program remains compliant with this criterion.

Criterion 6.4 of the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria shall be changed to read as follows:

- A. The program must use systematic methods to track and evaluate the professional career development of its graduates.
- B. Graduate career development data must be used to assess the extent to which the FPD program is achieving its goals and learning outcomes.
- C. Program performance data must be used to assess the extent to which the program is achieving its goals and learning outcomes. Programs shall provide to ACAOM or ACAOM shall receive performance data on an annual basis, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Graduation rate
 - 2. NCCAOM certification exam pass rates for first-time test takers
 - 3. State licensure exam pass rates
- D. If a program falls below published performance data thresholds, ACAOM shall review program performance to determine if the program remains compliant with this criterion.