

<b>Standard:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Admissions and Student Services</b>
<b>Criterion:</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>Admissions</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	ACAOM Commission	
<b>Document History:</b>	<i>Implementation Date:</i>	
	<i>Last Updated:</i>	May 7, 2018
<b>Related Policies:</b>		
<b>References:</b>		
<b>Responsible Official:</b>	ACAOM Executive Director	

## INSTITUTIONAL COMPONENTS

*These components are defined as those relevant only to entities that are institutionally accredited by ACAOM. These institutional components are not relevant or pertinent to the schools that rely on ACAOM for programmatic accreditation only.*

*There are no Institutional Components for this criterion.*

## PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS

*These components are defined as those that are relevant to ACAOM programs, regardless of the institutional accreditation. Programmatic components may be further differentiated as applicable to all program levels (i.e., Masters, Professional Doctorate) or applicable to only one program level.*

### ALL PROGRAMS:

A. The program must have admissions policies, procedures, and practices that include explicit English language proficiency requirements, and are consistent with students achieving the statement of purpose and goals of the program.

B. *[effective January 1, 2020; SEE BELOW\*\*]*

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.

- C. Admissions policies, procedures, and practices must result in matriculated students who meet the program's admissions criteria and are capable of achieving the professional competencies expected from the program.
- D. The program's admissions policies, procedures, and practices must be regularly and systematically assessed to determine their effectiveness and revised as necessary.

#### **MASTER'S LEVEL PROGRAMS:**

- E. Prospective students must meet the programmatic admissions requirements in effect at the time of their official matriculation.
  - 1. The admissions criteria for the master's program must include the satisfactory completion of at least two (2) years of undergraduate-level education (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. In considering the acceptance of education and training obtained in foreign countries, credits earned at a foreign educational institution must be validated by a recognized, educational credentials, evaluation service.
  - 2. A maximum of 30 semester credits (or 50%) of the prerequisite two-year education requirement may be earned through prior learning assessment using either, or a combination, of the following assessment techniques: (1) credit by examination using standardized tests and/or (2) assignment of credit for military and corporate training based on recommendations established by the American Council on Education.
  - 3. Pre-requisite and co-requisite credits must not be counted towards degree completion credits.

#### **PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE [PD] PROGRAMS:**

- E. Prospective students must meet the programmatic admissions requirements in effect at the time of their official matriculation.
  - 1. The admissions criteria for the PD program must include the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) years of undergraduate-level education (defined as 90 semester credits or 135 quarter credits) from an institution accredited or pre-accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. In considering the acceptance of education and training obtained in foreign countries, credits earned at a foreign educational institution must be validated by a recognized educational credentials evaluation service.
- F. Prerequisite undergraduate-level education required for admission to the PD program must include chemistry, biology, and psychology. Institutions may offer professional-level programmatic courses in chemistry, biology, and psychology in lieu of program admission prerequisites.
- G. Institutions/programs that confer a master's degree as part of the PD must ensure that students dual enroll ab initio and clearly outline if/when it is possible for a student to be awarded a master's degree without completing the full PD program.

#### **POST-GRADUATE DOCTORATE [DAOM] PROGRAMS:**

E. Prospective students must meet the programmatic admissions requirements in effect at the time of their official matriculation.

1. The admissions criteria for the DAOM program must include the satisfactory completion of an ACAOM-accredited or pre-accredited entry-level program (i.e., master's or professional doctorate) in acupuncture or in Oriental medicine. In considering the acceptance of education and training obtained in foreign countries, credits earned at a foreign educational institution must be validated by a recognized educational credentials evaluation service.

a. For DAOM programs that include advanced study or specialty concentrations in herbal medicine, the admissions criteria must include the satisfactory completion of the minimum credits and clock hours of instruction stipulated under *criterion 7.02 – Chinese Herbology Certificate Programs*.

b. For DAOM programs that do not include advanced study or specialty concentrations in herbal medicine, the admissions criteria must include the satisfactory completion of a minimum of three (3) semester credits (45 clock hours of instruction) of introductory coursework in the fundamentals of Chinese herbal medicine either as a prerequisite or as a co-requisite.

2. Applications may be accepted for admission into the DAOM program from licensed acupuncturists who have not completed an ACAOM-accredited or pre-accredited entry-level program (i.e., master's or professional doctorate) in acupuncture or in Oriental medicine provided the program:

a. Demonstrates and documents an acceptable process for validating that the applicant has achieved professional competencies equivalent to an ACAOM-accredited or pre-accredited master's degree or master's level program in acupuncture or in Oriental medicine.

b. Provides opportunities from the institution's master's level program to rectify any deficiencies identified through the program's entrance evaluation and admission standards. Completion of the identified curriculum can be accomplished through the successful completion of specified courses, or by demonstrating achievement of the specific course objectives through successful completion of challenge examinations.

c. Does not count prerequisite and co-requisite credits toward degree completion credits.

**\*\* PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS**

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.

**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).

**Revision History**

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By
181010	Added DAOM components	

Programs and institutions are responsible for understanding and following ACAOM's current policies and procedures found at <http://acaom.org/policies/> and are encouraged to timely contact ACAOM with any questions or need for further clarification. The Commission is not bound by a rigid sequence of actions nor precluded from taking actions at any time as warranted by evolving circumstances; any dates or timelines provided for planning or illustrative purposes may change.