

Standard:	7	Program of Study
Criterion:	7.02	Minimum Program Length, Credits and Hours
Approved By:	ACAOM Commission	
Document History:	<i>Implementation Date:</i>	
	<i>Last Updated:</i>	May 7, 2018
Related Policies:		
References:		
Responsible Official:	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.

MASTER'S LEVEL PROGRAMS:

These credit requirements are over and above the 60 semester credits required for admission to the professional master's level program and must meet ACAOM credit related definitions.

A. Professional **acupuncture programs** must:

1. be at least three (3) academic years in length
2. be a minimum of 105 semester credits of instruction, including at least:
 - a. 705 clock (contact) hours of instruction in Oriental medical theory, diagnosis and treatment techniques in acupuncture, and related studies.
 - b. 660 clock hours of instruction in clinical training, including at least 150 hours in clinical observation and 500 clock hours of instruction in clinical internship.
 - c. 450 clock hours of instruction in biomedical clinical sciences.
 - d. 90 clock hours of instruction in counseling, communication, ethics and practice management.

B. Professional **Oriental medicine programs** must:

1. be at least four (4) academic years in length
2. be a minimum of 146 semester credits of instruction, including at least:
 - a. 705 clock hours of instruction in Oriental medical theory, diagnosis and treatment techniques in acupuncture, and related studies.
 - b. 450 clock hours of instruction in didactic Oriental herbal studies.
 - c. 870 clock hours of instruction in integrated acupuncture and herbal clinical training, including at least 150 hours in clinical observation and 700 clock hours of instruction in clinical internship.
 - d. 510 clock hours of instruction in biomedical clinical sciences.
 - e. 90 clock hours of instruction in counseling, communication, ethics, and practice management.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE [PD] PROGRAMS:

These credit requirements are over and above the 90 semester credits required for admission to the professional doctorate program and must meet ACAOM credit-related definitions.

A. Professional doctoral programs in **acupuncture must:**

1. be at least four (4) academic years in length
2. be a minimum of 121 semester credits of instruction and include a minimum of 790 clock hours of instruction of clinical training, **comprised of at least 150 hours in clinical observation and 500 clock hours of instruction in clinical internship.**
3. meet or exceed all existing ACAOM standards and criteria required for master's level acupuncture programs, in addition to meeting the PD standards, criteria, and professional competencies defined in this document.

B. Professional doctoral programs in **Oriental medicine must:**

1. be at least four (4) academic years in length
2. be a minimum of 162 semester credits of instruction and include a minimum of 1,000 clock hours of instruction of clinical training, **comprised of at least 150 hours in clinical observation and 700 clock hours of instruction in clinical internship.**
3. meet or exceed all existing ACAOM standards and criteria required for master's level Oriental medicine programs, in addition to meeting the PD standards, criteria, and professional competencies defined in this document.

C. Professional doctorate completion tracks in acupuncture or Oriental medicine must:

1. be a minimum of 16 semester credits of instruction (accounting for a minimum of 300 clock hours of instruction) and include a minimum of 130 clock hours of instruction of demonstrated clinical experience that leads to the development of professional competencies in the systems-based medicine domain outlined in *Criterion 7.04: Professional Competencies*.
2. meet or exceed all existing ACAOM standards and criteria for accreditation required for master's level acupuncture or Oriental medicine programs, in addition to meeting the PD standards, criteria, and professional competencies defined in this document.

POST-GRADUATE DOCTORATE [DAOM] PROGRAMS:

These hour requirements are over and above the requirements for admission to the post-graduate doctorate program.

- A. Post-graduate doctoral programs must be a minimum of 1,200 clock hours of instruction and include a minimum of 650 clock hours of instruction of clinical training, comprised of a minimum of 325 clock hours of instruction in clinical internship.

Revision History

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By
181010	Added DAOM components; added additional detail to clinical training hour allocation for PD programs	

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.