

INTRODUCTION TO THE ACAOM COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

The Comprehensive Standards and Criteria for master's level programs and professional doctorate programs were adopted 23 April 2018 and required for all subsequent self-study report submissions.

Programmatic components for Chinese herbal medicine certificate programs were added to the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria effective 11 August 2018 and required for all subsequent self-study report submissions.

Programmatic components for post-professional doctorate [DAOM] programs were added to the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria effective 4 January 2019 and are required for all self-study report submissions due after 1 April 2019.

ACAOM-ACCREDITABLE PROGRAMS (see [ACAOM Glossary](#))

Only programs for which ACAOM has established accreditation standards and criteria are accreditable. These Comprehensive Standards and Criteria apply to the following programs for which ACAOM currently awards accredited or pre-accredited status:

- **Master's-level degree or diploma programs**
- **Professional doctorate (PD) degree programs**
- **Post-professional doctorate (DAOM) degree programs**
- **Chinese herbal medicine certificate programs**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (see [ACAOM Glossary](#))

Eligibility Requirements are select accreditation criteria further classified by the Commission as ACAOM's basic threshold requirements for master's-level and doctoral programs to achieve and maintain ACAOM pre-accreditation and accreditation status. An institution/program seeking pre-accreditation must demonstrate that it complies with these select accreditation criteria further classified by the Commission as *Eligibility Requirements*.

While all accreditation standards and criteria are assessed during the eligibility phase, compliance with the following criteria designated as *Eligibility Requirements* is a requirement for achieving pre-accreditation status:

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	1.01	Integrity
1	1.02	Mission and Statement of Purpose
1	1.03	Program Goals
1	1.04	Program Learning Outcomes
2	2.01	Legal Organization and Authorization
2	2.02	Accreditation Status of Parent Institution
2	2.03	Degree-Granting Authority
2	2.05	Compliance with Federal Law
2	2.06	Compliance with State Law
2	2.07	Compliance with Local and Municipal Laws, Ordinances and Codes
3	3.01	Governance Structure
3	3.05	Administrative & Academic Leadership
5	5.01	Recruitment and Policy Publication
5	5.02	Admissions
5	5.05	Student Services
6	6.01	Systematic Evaluation
6	6.02	Assessment of Student Learning
7	7.01	Program Level
7	7.02	Minimum Program Length, Credits, and Hours
8	8.01	Core Faculty
9	9.02	General Sufficiency and Stability of Resources
9	9.04	Financial Planning and Control
9	9.08	Campus and Program Facilities
9	9.09	Learning Resource System (Library)
10	10.02	Catalog

INSTITUTIONAL vs. PROGRAMMATIC CRITERIA/COMPONENTS

ACAOM is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as both an institutional accreditor and as a programmatic accreditor. Components of the accreditation criteria are differentiated into two types, institutional and programmatic. Criteria may include one or both types of components.

- **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.
- **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 programs (i.e., master’s, professional doctorate, post-professional doctorate degrees; Chinese herbal medicine certificates) or applicable to only one program.

PUBLICATION AND FORMATTING

The ACAOM Comprehensive Standards and Criteria consist of twelve (12) documents:

- Introduction to the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria
- Ten (10) Standards documents
- Comprehensive Standards and Criteria Revision History

A unified document containing all twelve (12) documents is available for user convenience, but does not constitute the official published Comprehensive Standards and Criteria.

Within individual Standards and Criteria, the following section and sub-section format is employed:

- A. ____
 - 1. ____
 - a) ____

The letters I, O and Q are intentionally omitted from the format, due to their close visual similarity to the numbers 1 and 0.

PUBLICATIONS, RECORDS, AND MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTATION

When a criterion for accreditation requires published material, the institution/program must retain a copy of said material in English, regardless of the language intended for distribution.

For the purposes of accreditation procedures, the institution/program must be able to produce copies of all published material in English, regardless of the language intended for distribution.

Published materials cited in the accreditation standards and criteria include, but are not limited to, promotional advertisements, website, catalog, clinic manual, student handbook, enrollment agreements, syllabi, academic records, and required regulatory disclosures.

RELATED POLICIES/RESOURCES

Programs and institutions seeking or holding accreditation status with the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM or Commission) are subject to the Commission's *Standards, Criteria, Policies and Procedures* and all associated *Applications, Checklists, Glossaries, Guides, Handbooks, Manuals and Position Papers* published by the Commission on its website. Specific policies/resources may from time to time be hyperlinked within the published Standards documents.

SITE VISIT MANUAL

Programs and institutions demonstrate their compliance with the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria through the self-study process, which includes preparation of a self-study report, peer review of the report, and a site visit by peer evaluators. Consult the [ACAOM Site Visit Manual](#) for examples of the kinds of questions that programs and institutions should seek to answer through the self-study process, and the types of exhibits and resources that help to demonstrate compliance with the Comprehensive Standards and Criteria.

TRANSITIONS TO NEW/REVISED STANDARDS/CRITERIA

When ACAOM implements new or revised accreditation standards/criteria, institutions/programs are encouraged to move toward compliance with the most current accreditation standards. However, for decision-making purposes, ACAOM will hold institutions/programs accountable to meeting the standards under which the most recent accreditation application was submitted. Institutions/programs may request accountability to meet more current standards subject to Commission approval.