



Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

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ACAOM Degree Structure and Naming Convention

Approved 16 February 2019

Introduction

As a result of interest from the acupuncture and Oriental medicine community and other stakeholders, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine ('ACAOM' or 'Commission') initiated efforts in 2014 to clarify its degree structure and title designations. After review of this extensive work, including the results of ACAOM's modified-Delphi project, associated surveys, and subsequent public comment, the Commission approved a revised degree structure with title designations that will bring consistency to the field of degree programs that ACAOM accredits.

CURRENT ACAOM ACCREDITABLE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Entry-level programs: (qualify graduates for professional license)

- Master's degree program in acupuncture
 - minimum 105 semester credits
- Master's degree program in Oriental medicine
 - minimum 146 semester credits
 - 105 semester credits (Master's degree program in acupuncture)
 - 41 semester credits in Chinese herbal medicine
- Professional doctorate program in acupuncture
 - minimum 121 semester credits
- Professional doctorate program in Oriental medicine
 - minimum 162 semester credits
 - 121 semester credits (Professional doctorate program in acupuncture)
 - 41 semester credits in Chinese herbal medicine

Post-professional doctoral-level program:

- Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine [DAOM]
 - minimum 1200 clock hours

REVISED ACAOM DEGREE STRUCTURE AND NAMING CONVENTION

The 41 credit Chinese herbal medicine curriculum currently accredited as a certificate of Chinese herbal medicine or embedded in the Master's degree and professional doctorate programs in Oriental medicine is being converted to an accreditable master's degree in Chinese herbal medicine (MCHM), resulting in the following degree structure:

Entry-level programs:

Qualification for professional licensure and national certification in acupuncture

- Master of Acupuncture (MAc or M.Ac)
 - minimum 105 semester credits
 - unchanged from prior master's degree program in acupuncture
- Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc or D.Ac)
 - minimum 121 semester credits
 - unchanged from prior professional doctorate program in acupuncture

Qualification for professional licensure where Chinese herbal medicine is required, and national certification in Chinese herbology

- Master of Chinese Herbal Medicine (MCHM): minimum 41 total credits
 - Minimum 41 semester credits
 - Applicants must be graduates of, or concurrently enrolled in, an accredited/pre-accredited entry-level program leading to qualification for professional licensure and national certification in acupuncture [as listed above].
 - The MCHM degree may only be conferred upon holders of entry-level degrees but may be awarded concurrently with an entry-level degree program leading to qualification for professional licensure and national certification in acupuncture [as listed above].

Advanced practice doctoral program:

- Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM)
 - minimum 1200 clock hours

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective no later than 31 December 2022, all ACAOM accredited/pre-accredited degree programs must convert to the new degree structure and naming convention.

GENERAL COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

Current Degrees		New Degree Titles	Admission Requirements	Total Semester Credits	Total Program Hours	Clinical Hours
MAc		MAc	60 credits	105	1905	660
MOM		MAc+MCHM	60 credits + MAc or DAc	146	2625	870
PD-Ac		DAc	90 credits	121	2210	790
PD-OM		DAc+MCHM	90 credits	162	2930	1000
DAOM		DAOM	MAc, DAc, or MAc+MCHM, DAc+MCHM	not specified	1200	650