The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM or Commission) met on 15 May 2020 to review its COVID-19-related actions to date, consult guidance from various Federal and state regulatory bodies, consider ongoing feedback from ACAOM-accredited programs and institutions, and deliberate on additional modifications to requirements for instruction under emergency waivers.

The Commission took the following actions, which replace and supersede previous Commission actions regarding instruction under COVID-19 pandemic emergency waivers relating to clinical training hour requirements (see criterion 7.02) and requirements for student-delivered patient care (see criterion 7.05), as well as previous maximum duration of emergency waivers:

1. **Emergency Waiver Limitations, by Program, for Clinical Training**

Please note that the requirements are now stated in terms of the requirements that must be completed live and in-person, instead of maximum requirements that can be conducted via distance education:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Requirements that must be completed LIVE and IN-PERSON</th>
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</table>
| **Entry-level programs in acupuncture:**  
  *M.Ac, Dipl.Ac, DAc* | • at least 75 hours of ACAOM’s total 150-hour clinical observation requirement.  
  • at least 320 hours of ACAOM’s total 500-hour clinical internship requirement.  
  • at least 160 treatments of student-delivered patient care where students conduct patient interviews, perform diagnosis and treatment planning, perform appropriate acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine treatments, and follow-up on patients’ responses to treatment. |
| **Entry level programs in acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization:**  
  *MOM, Dipl.OM, DAc with CHM* | • at least 75 hours of ACAOM’s total 150-hour clinical observation requirement.  
  • at least 450 hours of ACAOM’s total 700-hour clinical internship requirement.  
  • at least 225 treatments of student-delivered patient care where students conduct patient interviews, perform diagnosis and treatment planning, perform appropriate acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine treatments, and follow-up on patients’ responses to treatment. |
| **Certificate programs in Chinese herbal medicine** | • at least 130 hours of ACAOM’s total 200-hour clinical internship requirement.  
  • at least 65 treatments of student-delivered patient care where students conduct patient interviews, perform diagnosis and treatment planning, administer appropriate herbal medicine treatments, and follow-up on patients’ responses to treatment. |
| **Advanced practice doctoral programs:**  
  *DAOM* | • at least 130 hours of ACAOM’s clinical internship requirement. |
2. **INTERN/PATIENT RATIO CLARIFICATION**

ACAOM accreditation standards do not prescribe an intern/patient ratio for patient contacts. However, programs must document and be able to justify any supervisor/intern/patient ratios adopted and produce evaluation evidence demonstrating effectiveness of the adopted ratios.

3. **DURATION OF EMERGENCY WAIVERS**

Effective immediately, all currently issued emergency distance education waivers supporting both didactic and clinical training will be extended until **31 December 2020**. The Commission encourages accredited programs and institutions to resume in-person educational activities when conditions allow for a safe return, subject to regulations, declarations, executive orders or other guidance from Federal, state and local officials.

ACAOM recognizes that accredited programs must follow institutional directives and make decisions that are best for their institution when operating in extenuating circumstances. As continued accommodations to students are made, please be mindful of potential consequences for students in terms of degree completion, financial aid, accreditation, licensure and/or certification, and future employment.

4. **REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER EMERGENCY WAIVER**

All schools participating in the emergency waiver process for either didactic or clinical training will be required to submit a supplemental information report by **1 October 2020**. The focus of this report will be an accounting of activities conducted under emergency waiver, with specific elements to be communicated to programs and institutions by **15 June 2020**.

The Commission will also seek additional reporting following the conclusion of instruction conducted under emergency waiver, to include documentation demonstrating that students were successful in achieving all required competencies; the timing and specific elements of this additional reporting are to be determined.

These reports will be analyzed to improve future emergency planning processes and to determine if changes may be warranted to ACAOM’s accreditation standards, policies or procedures.