Position Paper Title: Acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine Bachelor's degrees

Approved By: ACAOM Executive Committee

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Related Policies:

References:

Responsible Official: ACAOM Executive Director

Background

ACAOM’s current scope of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) does not permit ACAOM to accredit undergraduate degrees.

ACAOM Scope of Recognition

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM or Commission) is the accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for the accreditation and pre-accreditation (“Candidacy”) throughout the United States of professional non-degree and graduate degree programs, including professional doctoral programs, in the field of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine, as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.

It is the practice of some ACAOM accredited or pre-accredited institutions to also award an acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine (AOM) Bachelor’s degree to students upon the successful completion of the institution’s ACAOM accredited or pre-accredited graduate degree program.

ACAOM’s Position

Based upon the Department’s guidance, for institutions accredited or pre-accredited by ACAOM such practice is permissible provided:

1. The institution has received written authorization from its relevant state authorization agency to award an AOM Bachelor's degree,
2. The institution does not offer the AOM Bachelor’s degree as a “stand alone” degree program but only awards the degree upon successful completion of a graduate degree program accredited or pre-accredited by ACAOM, and
3. The institution makes it clear in all public disclosures that graduates of its AOM Bachelor's degree program are not considered to have graduated with an ACAOM accredited or pre-accredited degree and may not rely on ACAOM accreditation or pre-accreditation for professional licensure or other purposes.

Upon ACAOM's request, institutions awarding an AOM Bachelor's degree upon completion of an ACAOM-accredited or pre-accredited program must justify to ACAOM’s satisfaction how it distinguishes between undergraduate and graduate AOM coursework and shows this distinction in student records (i.e., transcripts).

Institutions must consult the Department directly regarding Title IV student aid eligibility for AOM Bachelor's degrees.
### Revision History

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<td>24 Jan 2018</td>
<td>ACAOM requirements for institutions to distinguish graduate and under-graduate coursework</td>
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