Policy Title: ACAOM Virtual Site Visit Policy

Approved By: ACAOM Commission

Document History: Implementation Date: 29 July 2020

Related Policies: ACAOM Accreditation Procedures; ACAOM Commission Actions Policy; ACAOM Site Visit Manual;

References: USDE 17 March 2020 Information Regarding Temporary Flexibilities;

Responsible Official: ACAOM Executive Director

Policy Summary:
In response to COVID-19 interruptions with campus operations and domestic travel, and consistent with United States Department of Education (USDE) guidance dated 17 March 2020, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM or Commission) determined it is reasonable and prudent to pilot virtual site visits for select programs and institutions on a temporary basis.

Virtual Site Visit Eligibility
Virtual site visits are limited to programs and institutions that:
1. are not under Commission sanction,
2. are not subject to a complaint investigation,
3. are engaged in renewing their current ACAOM accreditation status (i.e., are not seeking ACAOM initial accreditation or pre-accreditation),
4. have consistently and timely responded to ACAOM communications and reporting requirements,
5. have consistently submitted relevant, responsive and organized documentation and evidence outlined in ACAOM’s published requirements and instructions, and
6. possess the technical and technological capabilities to support a virtual site visit.

Virtual Site Visit Participant Expectations
Virtual site visit participants are expected to comply with the same requirements outlined in ACAOM’s Site Visit Manual except that actual site visits will be conducted virtually using synchronous and interactive communication strategies (e.g., telephonic meetings, videoconferencing, etc.) and narratives, documents and exhibits will be exchanged electronically. The Commission will review and make accreditation decisions based upon a program/institution’s full accreditation record including information obtained through a virtual site visit.

Within a reasonable time following a virtual site visit, and subject to potential COVID-19 travel and social distancing restrictions, ACAOM will conduct an in-person site visit to the campus. The duration of the visit and the composition of ACAOM’s site visit teams may be modified as necessary. Information obtained from a follow-up site visit may impact the previous accreditation decision resulting from the virtual site visit.
### Revision History

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