

ACAHM Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine

Position Paper Title: Acupuncture and/or East Asian Medicine-Related Bachelor’s degrees

Approved By: ACAHM Executive Committee

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Related Commission Policies:

References:

Responsible Official: ACAHM Director of Regulatory Affairs

Background

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

ACAHM Scope of Recognition

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM 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, including programs offered via distance education.

It is the practice of some ACAHM-accredited or pre-accredited institutions to also award an acupuncture and/or East Asian Medicine (EAM)-related Bachelor’s degree to students upon the successful completion of the institution’s ACAHM-accredited or pre-accredited graduate degree program.

ACAHM’s Position

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

1. The institution has received written authorization from its relevant state authorization agency to award an EAM Bachelor’s degree,
2. The institution does not offer the EAM 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 ACAHM, and
3. The institution makes it clear in all public disclosures that graduates of its EAM Bachelor’s degree program are not considered to have graduated with an ACAHM accredited or pre-accredited degree and may not rely on ACAHM accreditation or pre-accreditation for professional licensure or other purposes.

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

Institutions must consult the Department directly regarding Title IV student aid eligibility for EAM Bachelor’s degrees.

Revision History

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By
180124	ACAOM requirements for institutions to distinguish graduate and under-graduate coursework	ACAOM Executive Director
220204	Adjusted terminology throughout for ACAHM name change and removal of “Oriental” term; no material revisions made	ACAHM Executive Director
240111	Reviewed; updated scope of recognition to include distance education	ACAHM Executive Director