

# ACAHM Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine

**Position Paper Title:** Title IV Eligibility for Graduate and Professional Students

**Approved By:** ACAHM Executive Committee

**Document History:** Initial Publication Date: 14 February 2022

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## **Related Commission Policies:**

**References:** 20 U.S.C. 1082; 20 U.S.C. 1088; 34 CFR 668.2(b); Volume 1, Chapter 1 in the 2022-2023 *Federal Student Aid Handbook*; Volume 3, Chapter 5 in the 2022-2023 *Federal Student Aid Handbook*; [Position Paper: Acupuncture and/or East Asian Medicine-Related Bachelor's degrees](#)

**Responsible Official:** ACAHM Director of Regulatory Affairs

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## **Background:**

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (Code or CFR), Title 34 (Education) was amended on 1 July 2022. The objectives of this *Position Paper* are to bring to the attention of the Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine community amendments specific to definitions of “*Graduate*” and “*Professional*” students, and clarification of Title IV federal student aid eligibility for such students. Questions should be directed to individuals knowledgeable in federal student aid matters.

## **Definitions:**

### **GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL STUDENT:**

*A student who -*

*(1) Is not receiving title IV aid as an undergraduate student for the same period of enrollment;*

*(2) Is enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or is enrolled in a program leading to a professional degree; and*

*(3) Has completed the equivalent of at least three years of full-time study either prior to entrance into the program or as part of the program itself.*

*(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1082 and 1088; 34 CFR 668.2(b))*

### **2022-2023 FEDERAL STUDENT AID HANDBOOK DEFINITION OF GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL STUDENT**

*For Title IV student eligibility purposes, a graduate or professional student is defined as a student who is enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or in a professional program and has*

completed the equivalent of three academic years of full-time study, either prior to entering the program or as part of the program itself. Also, a student who is receiving Title IV aid as an undergraduate student cannot be considered a graduate/professional student for that same period of enrollment.

A student in a graduate program who does not meet the regulatory definition of a graduate student (see below) can't get any Title IV aid until they meet the regulatory definition of a graduate student, unless they are enrolled in a dual degree/combo program in which they will receive a bachelor's degree, for which they can receive undergraduate aid until they complete the undergraduate portion of the program.

For programs which only lead to a graduate or professional degree but admit students who do not yet meet the regulatory requirements to be considered graduate/professional degree students, students enrolled in such programs who do not yet qualify as a graduate/professional student are not considered enrolled in an undergraduate program of study, and therefore are ineligible to receive any Title IV aid until they have completed at least three years of full-time study. Once this type of student has completed at least three years of full-time study, they are eligible to receive graduate-level Title IV aid.

(Authority: See Volume 1, Chapter 1 in the 2022-2023 *Federal Student Aid Handbook*; Volume 3, Chapter 5, p. 108 of 161 in the 2022-2023 *Federal Student Aid Handbook*)

**Revision History**

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By
220928	Comprehensive and total revision to paper previously titled "Title IV Eligibility for Students Who Are Enrolled In A Graduate Program"	ACAHM Exec. Dir.
240124	Reviewed; no revisions	ACAHM Exec. Dir.