

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT REGARDING POST-GRADUATE DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

As a USDE-recognized accrediting agency, ACAOM is required to review and approve in advance the offering of new programs located in institutions for which ACAOM serves as its institutional accreditor.

While ACAOM has developed accreditation standards for reviewing post-graduate Doctor of Acupuncture (D.Ac.) and Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) programs, **ACAOM is only recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit Master's degree and Master's-level certificate and diploma programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The Commission is not currently recognized by the US Department of Education for its doctoral program reviews.**

It has come to the Commission's attention that some institutions, which have received ACAOM substantive change approval to begin offering post-graduate doctoral programs may be characterizing those programs as "ACAOM-approved" without further clarification.

ACAOM's substantive change approval letters permitting certain institutions to proceed to offer post-graduate doctoral programs explicitly stated:

Approval to implement a doctoral program is only the first step in the process toward accreditation of the program and is not an official status with the Commission, but a preliminary review to enable the institution to proceed. No assurance is made by granting approval to commence the program that the program will eventually be granted either Candidacy or Accreditation. No language may be used by [name of institution] that may suggest or imply that the doctoral program has or is expected to gain candidacy or accredited status with ACAOM.

Required Disclaimer Statement Regarding Substantive Change Approval

To avoid any statements that might mislead prospective students or the public into believing that ACAOM approval of your institution's substantive change application constitutes any official status of that program with the Commission or implies candidacy or accreditation, the Commission requires that any institutions that are offering post-graduate doctoral programs pursuant to the Commission's substantive change policies, include the following disclaimer on their web sites, in promotional materials and in all other publications that reference such programs. Already published catalogs or promotional materials must include an errata sheet with this disclaimer language.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The [insert name of institution] has received approval by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) to begin offering a post-graduate doctoral program titled "Doctor of Acupuncture & Oriental

Medicine” (DAOM) pursuant to ACAOM’s substantive change procedures. This approval is only the first step in the process toward accreditation of the program and does not reflect any official status with ACAOM. No assurance is made by granting approval to commence a DAOM program that the program will eventually be granted either ACAOM Candidacy or Accreditation status.

Required Disclaimer Statement Regarding Candidacy or Accreditation Status

In addition, if your institution’s post-graduate doctoral program achieves candidacy or accreditation status with the Commission it is required to use the following language in any publications, web sites, or other promotional materials that reference that status.

Candidacy:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The [insert name of program] of the [name of institution] has been admitted to Candidacy status by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine and is in the process of seeking accreditation. ACAOM, Maryland Trade Center #3, 7501 Greenway Center Drive, #820, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Phone (301)313-0855. ACAOM is not currently recognized by the US Department of Education for its candidacy or accreditation reviews with respect to doctoral programs in the field.

Accreditation:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The [insert name of program] of the [name of institution] is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. ACAOM, Maryland Trade Center #3, 7501 Greenway Center Drive, #820, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Phone (301)313-0855. ACAOM is not currently recognized by the US Department of Education for its candidacy or accreditation reviews with respect to doctoral programs in the field.

If you have any questions about this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact Commission staff.