

ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE & ORIENTAL MEDICINE

ACAOM Adopts New Interim Self-Study Guide

The Commission has adopted an Interim Self-Study Guide, which replaces the Self-Study Guides published in Parts 5 & 6 of the *Accreditation Handbook* governing Master's-level and post-graduate doctoral programs, respectively.

The new Guide constitutes a substantial departure from the approach to the self-study process reflected in the current Guides. It reflects the Commission's desire to refocus the accreditation process from one of "process" to the documentation of institutional, program and student learning outcomes, while enabling institutions and programs in the accreditation process to use the self-study process to develop useful and meaningful strategic plans for further development.

Under the new Guide, rather than simply providing "descriptions" and "assertions" of how an institution or program meets ACAOM standards, programs seeking initial or renewal of accreditation would be required to provide analyses of how well they are achieving their mission, goals, objectives, program outcomes and student learning outcomes relative to compliance with ACAOM standards. The Guide would also have the effect of greatly reducing the size of Self-Study reports submitted to the Commission. You may access the new Guide by clicking the following link <http://www.acaom.org/handbook.htm>

The Commission is planning to conduct its first workshop on the new approach to developing a self-study in connection with the AAAOM fall 2007 meeting in Portland Oregon. The workshop is scheduled for 9:00am-4:00pm on Sunday, October 21. The workshop will be presented by Dr. Howard L. Simmons, Ph.D., ACAOM Chair; William Keppler, Ph.D., and Dort S. Bigg, JD, ACAOM Executive Director. If you are interested in registering for this workshop, please contact the Commission office.