



**ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE**

Maryland Trade Center Bldg. #3, Suite 760 • 7501 Greenway Center Drive • Greenbelt, MD 20770
Tel: 301/313-0855 • FAX: 301/313-0912 • www.acaom.org

TO: Presidents and CEOs of Accredited and Candidate Programs/Institutions

FROM: Carla Wilson, MA, Dipl Ac & CH, L.Ac.
Acting Chair

DATE: September 5, 2008

SUBJECT: **New Commission Candidacy and Accreditation Sustaining Dues Structure**

The Commission is undergoing a number of exciting changes to improve the accreditation process and the services that we provide to applicant, candidate and accredited programs, as cited in the “ACAOM August 2008 Update” posted to the **News and Meetings** link on the ACAOM website and in recent Commission newsletters. Representative examples of these changes include:

- Expanding staff to address the needs of ACAOM constituents.
- Streamlining the accreditation process through revisions to ACAOM policies, procedures, and protocols.
- Reconceptualizing ACAOM standards, including those for both the MA and DAOM programs
- Upgrading technological resources to improve the accreditation services provided, such as web site enhancements and ongoing work to develop an interactive, relational accreditation database
- Developing and updating policies, procedures, handbooks, manuals, guides, forms and templates
- Ongoing efforts to reduce the reporting burden on institutions and programs in the accreditation process consistent with ACAOM’s quality assurance mission
- Offering improved workshops, including those for site visitors, institutions and programs in the accreditation process
- Consideration of new standards for first-professional doctoral programs and for utilizing distance learning modes of program delivery
- Pursuing USDE recognition for ACAOM’s DAOM program reviews, which will make students in DAOM programs eligible for federal financial aid
- Developing the infrastructure and technology to provide aggregate trend data for institutions and programs in the accreditation process, such as student enrollment, graduate and retention rates, and faculty data, among others
- Improved on-line resources to institutions and programs, such as information on developing Eligibility and Self-Study Reports, and on ACAOM site visit protocols, among others

- Developing an “ACAOM Accreditation and Quality Assurance Conference” for representatives of accredited and candidate institutions and programs, which is currently in the planning phase

To ensure that the Commission can fully implement planned reforms to the accreditation process, and more effectively fulfill its mission, the Commission has recently reexamined its financial resource needs.

The dues structure currently in place has served the Commission well over the past five years. However, the Commission has determined that the levels of financial support we now receive in the form of sustaining dues are insufficient to support the Commission’s current scope of operations and strategic plans for both strengthening the accreditation process and improving the services ACAOM provides.

At its summer 2008 meeting, the Commission, therefore, approved a revised sustaining dues structure that will go into effect in spring 2009. A copy of the revised dues/fee structure is attached.

If any colleges have questions about the new dues structure, please feel free to contact Commission staff.

Attachment: “Revised Sustaining Due Structure”

ATTACHMENT

REVISED SUSTAINING DUES STRUCTURE

I.

<i>Annual Sustaining Candidacy and Annual Sustaining Accreditation Dues (MA-level)</i>	Due on March 1st of each year of candidacy or accredited status.	\$6,600 Base + \$30 per student
---	--	---------------------------------

Note: Annual Sustaining Dues paid by any campus are capped at \$20,000 regardless of the number of students or programs

II.

<i>DAOM Program Annual Sustaining Candidacy and Accreditation Dues</i>	Due on March 1st of each year of candidacy or accredited status.	\$3,300 Base + \$30 per student
---	--	---------------------------------

Note: Annual Sustaining Dues paid by any campus are capped at \$20,000 regardless of the number of students or programs