

ACAHM Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine

Position Paper Title: English language courses and programs

Approved By: ACAHM Executive Director

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Related Commission Policies: [Comprehensive Accreditation Standards and Criteria](#)

References: [Public Law 111-306](#)

Responsible Official: ACAHM Director of Regulatory Affairs

Background

The Department of Homeland Security and its Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) does not set an English language proficiency requirement necessary for an international applicant to qualify for a student visa (I-20). Rather, SEVP defers to and trusts I-20 visa sponsoring schools to establish their own English proficiency admissions requirements that comply with standards mandated by their corresponding states and accreditors.

International applicants not meeting a sponsoring school’s English proficiency admissions standards may choose to enroll in an intensive English language training program offered by a 3rd-party language training institute. In such instances, the intensive English language training program/institute must hold accreditation status with a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary of Education before it can grant I-20 visas.

Should a school that is not an intensive language institute elect to offer an intensive English language course or program “in-house” to help applicants meet English language proficiency admissions standard, unless the school holds regional or national institutional accreditation, the school’s English language training program must be accredited by the [Commission on English Accreditation](#) (CEA).

Revision History

Date Revised	Summary of Revisions	Approved By
220204	Adjusted terminology throughout for ACAHM name change and removal of “Oriental” term; no material revisions made	ACAHM Executive Director
240111	Reviewed; no revisions	ACAHM Executive Director