

FAQ: COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT DISTANCE EDUCATION

1. Are there any ACAHM-accredited programs offered entirely via distance education/online?

Currently, ACAHM does not accredit programs in acupuncture and East Asian medicine that are offered entirely via distance education. ACAHM does have a [Distance Education Policy](#), which allows Commission-accredited programs and institutions to seek approval to offer one or more courses via distance education. The policy places significant limitations on the use of distance education in clinical education and training activities. Many ACAHM-accredited programs offer at least some courses via distance education, and most programs utilize online technology to some degree within courses that are predominantly held in-person.

All ACAHM standards, criteria, policies and procedures regarding programs of study and admissions apply to distance-delivered courses, including limitations on participation by non-matriculated students.

ACAHM's accreditation standards for Doctor of Acupuncture programs (both with and without a Chinese herbal medicine specialization) allow a program to offer a doctoral completion track for prior graduates of ACAHM-accredited/pre-accredited master's-level programs. The completion track is considered by the Commission as a component of the overall professional doctoral program, rather than as a separate and distinct program (see [Criterion 5.08](#) and [Criterion 7.02](#) of the Comprehensive Standards). While some institutions have chosen to advertise such degree completion opportunities as "transitional doctorates" or "bridge" programs, the Commission will not review and accredit these programs apart from a full start-to-finish program. It is possible for the completion track to be offered entirely online, subject to distance education approval from the Commission.

2. Are there any institutions/programs that do not require the student to reside in the local area?

ACAHM-accredited/pre-accredited programs leading to professional licensure are residential in nature. While some institutions/programs have been approved to offer courses online, there are currently no programs leading to licensure that offer enough online instruction to make remote study routinely possible. There are a small number of programs across the country that offer modular schedules (for example, courses may be offered during one intensive period per month). Prospective students are encouraged to consult ACAHM's [Directory of Accredited/Pre-accredited Programs and Institutions](#), search for schools in a desirable location, and then contact each school to determine what options they offer that might be appealing.

3. Does ACAHM accredit any training programs specifically for licensed healthcare professionals other than acupuncturists?

Not at this time. All ACAHM programs are required to meet the minimum program length requirements stipulated under [Criterion 7.02](#) of the Comprehensive Standards. Individuals interested in pursuing an entry-level ACAHM-accredited program should explore the master's-level and professional doctoral programs listed under ACAHM's [Directory of Accredited/Pre-accredited Programs and Institutions](#)