

FAQ: COMMON QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT/PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

1. What is the difference between regional, national, and professional (programmatic) accreditation?

Refer to the About Us tab on ACAHM's website, [What Is Accreditation?](#)

2. What is the difference between ACAHM-accredited doctoral programs?

ACAHM currently accredits two types of doctoral programs, professional doctorate and advanced practice doctorates. Refer to ACAHM's [Position Paper: ACAHM-accreditable Doctoral Programs](#) for details.

3. How can I find out a school's accreditation status (if/when they are accredited, for how long, when they will be reviewed next, regional/national, etc.)?

All of the information that ACAHM is required by policy or by U.S. Department of Education regulations to share with the public is posted in the ACAHM [Directory of Accredited/Pre-accredited Programs and Institutions](#). In the "Select Category" dropdown menu, schools can be searched by state, degree program, and accreditor. Once a school is selected, click on "Show Notes" to see their accreditation history.

4. What do students need to know when they are considering enrolling in a program that is not yet accredited?

Institutions/programs that are currently in the process of seeking ACAHM pre-accreditation/accreditation, but not yet accredited or pre-accredited by ACAHM, can provide no assurance that pre-accreditation or accreditation will be granted by ACAHM. ACAHM's [Recognition of Graduates Policy](#) outlines the recognition of graduates of programs that are in pursuit ACAHM pre-accreditation/accreditation. ACAHM strongly encourages institutions/programs to clearly convey the implications of timelines and information about where a program is in terms of applying or in the review process so that students do not have unrealistic or inaccurate expectations in terms of being potential graduates of an ACAHM-accredited program. See ACAHM's [Accreditation Procedures Policy](#) for details.

If the institution/program receives ACAHM pre-accreditation while you are still enrolled as a student, that would likely qualify you to sit for the national certification examinations (consult the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine to confirm, <https://www.nccaom.org/>). Many states also require graduation from an ACAHM pre-accredited/accredited program for professional licensure (consult each individual state licensing board for details).

If the program does not receive ACAHM pre-accreditation while you are still enrolled as a student, you may not be eligible to sit for the national exams or achieve licensure in

many states and none of your credits would be transferable into another ACAHM-accredited program.

5. How can I file a complaint about a school?

Please see the ACAHM [Complaint FAQ](#).

6. Who can answer questions about acupuncture licensing and national certification?

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) certification examinations are a documentation of competency and requirements for licensure as an acupuncturist for the majority of states that regulate acupuncture. Enquiries regarding specific state licensure requirements should be directed to the state licensing agency. Details can be found on the [NCCAOM website](#), under *Advocacy/Regulatory > State Relations*.

7. Does ACAHM rank schools or make recommendations?

ACAHM is precluded from making recommendations for specific acupuncture and East Asian medicine-related educational programs. The selection of a professional educational program is a complex and personal undertaking, and prospective students should carefully research each institution under consideration.

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A number of organizations offer rankings of various U.S. colleges and universities and their programs. Each have established their own criteria for ranking and have varying levels of transparency regarding their review process, scoring and weighting, and so on. The selection of a professional educational program is a complex and personal undertaking, and prospective students should consider a variety of factors that may or may not be addressed by a ranking system. Accordingly, ACAHM does not participate in, endorse, or comment upon any rankings of acupuncture and East Asian medicine-related educational programs.