



### Summary of Reasons for Denial of Initial Accreditation of Stanton University

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for "The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidacy" status) throughout the United States of first-professional master's degree and professional master's level certificate and diploma programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine and professional post-graduate doctoral programs in acupuncture and in Oriental medicine (DAOM), as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine that offer such programs."

The following is a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the Commission's final decision to deny initial accreditation to Stanton University in Garden Grove, California.

Effective June 30, 2015 ACAOM denied initial accreditation for the Master's-level diploma program-acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. ACAOM determined that the program was not in compliance with the following standards and criteria:

**STANDARD 2 – Legal Organization--** The program shall be in a legally organized institution and authorized to conduct its operation under the laws of its own state and community as far as the state and community provide for such authorization, and shall be in compliance with all local, state, and federal (including OSHA) regulations applicable to it.

**Criterion 3.4 - Meetings--** The governance meetings must be held at regularly stated times and be of sufficient length for the governance structure to fulfill competently its responsibilities to the institution. Agendas of the meetings must be prepared and accurate minutes of the meetings kept and filed.

**Standard 5 - Records--** The program shall have accurate and complete record keeping systems.

**Criterion 5.2 - Clinical records--** The program must maintain clinical records of patients currently being seen by students which are accurate, secured, complete and are kept confidential with respect to the generally accepted standards of health care practice.

**Criterion 6.4 - Policy Planning--**The admissions policy must involve careful planning to determine whether it is serving the needs and interests of its students, and how it could be doing so more effectively.

**Criterion 6.6 - Pre-requisites--** The program must show evidence that it has developed appropriate course prerequisites and that students enrolled in a course have completed all prerequisites.



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**Criterion 6.8 - English language competency--** (a) English language competency must be required of all students seeking admission to the program taught in English. This may be satisfied by scoring at least 500 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and at least the currently reported mean score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE); (b) for those who shall complete the program in another language, a TOEFL score of at least 450 must be obtained and a mean score on the TSE, or the student must have completed a two-year (60 semester credits or 90 quarter credits) baccalaureate level education in an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education or from an equivalent English language institution in another country. Applicants who do not satisfy this requirement may be considered for admission with English as a second language, but they must satisfy the proficiency requirement in English before beginning the clinical experience.

**Criterion 6.9 – Enrollment--** Participation in courses in Oriental medicine (including studies in acupuncture and herbal therapies) presume two years of accredited, postsecondary education at the baccalaureate level prior to enrollment in such courses. Non-matriculated students must meet all entry requirements and course prerequisite requirements for participation in particular courses with the exception of physical exercise courses such as Qi Gong and Tai Chi which may be open to the general public. Programs must have clearly defined policies with respect to allowing non-matriculated students to take courses and must ensure that their participation does not adversely affect the quality of instruction.

**Criterion 10.4 - Grievances--** The program must have fair and efficient procedures for reviewing and responding to legitimate grievances made by students and must maintain a record of all student complaints during the preceding three-year period demonstrating that these complaints were handled in a fair and equitable manner. The program must disclose the Commission's address in its published policy on student complaints so that, if upon the program's disposition of a legitimate student complaint, the student is not satisfied that the program has adhered to its policy or been fair in its handling of the complaint, the student may contact the Commission.

**Criterion 13.4 - Budgetary Process--** The process by which the program's annual budget is established, and resources allocated, must be clearly defined and consistently implemented. It must provide a realistic projection of the program's revenues and expenditures. The budget must be reviewed and approved by the institution's governing entity. The program must be able to project its expenditures and revenues for at least a three-year period. The budget shall include notes explaining the assumptions on which the projected figures are based, e.g., the basis for increases or decreases in revenue or expenses.

**Criterion 14.1 - Completeness and Accuracy--** Publications, advertising, and other communications of information concerning the institution's programs, services, activities, and personnel must fully disclose the institution's educational offerings and must represent them to students, faculty, staff, the public and the Commission in language that is accurate, honest, clear, and unambiguous.

The accreditation Standards/Criteria are available in the Accreditation Manual on the ACAOM website at [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

This summary is being provided together with the official comments of Stanton University through the University's counsel, James Kosnett, which are attached.

