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STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

College:	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) School of Podiatric Medicine
Address:	1858 West Grandview Boulevard Erie, PA 16509
Telephone:	(814) 866-6641
President:	John M. Ferretti, DO
Academic Dean:	Duane J. Ehredt, Jr., DPM, FACFAS
Date of Initial Accreditation:	n/a
Accreditation:	CPME: Preaccreditation Status granted May 2025 Middle States Commission on Higher Education: 2022
Maximum Enrollment:	40
Date of Previous Evaluations:	July 11-13, 2022 (Candidacy) November 4-7, 2024 (Preaccreditation)
Next Scheduled Site Visit:	CPME: June 15-18, 2026 (Comprehensive site visit to determine Accreditation) Middle States Commission on Higher Education: 2029-2030

Brief History since the Last Comprehensive Evaluation:

On-site Evaluation to determine candidacy status: July 11-13, 2022

October 2022

Based on the review of the comprehensive report of the evaluation team, the school's written responses to the team report, and the presentation to the Accreditation Committee (Committee) on October 18, 2022, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (Council or CPME) accepted the Committee's recommendation and elected to **grant candidacy status** of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) School of Podiatric Medicine on October 21, 2022. On-site re-evaluation to determine preaccreditation status may be expected during the late fall 2024/early winter 2025. The maximum first-year class enrollment is 40.

An institution that has achieved candidate status is viewed by the Council to have the potential for meeting CPME accreditation standards and requirements once the DPM program is fully activated with students enrolled in all four years. The Council may elect to withdraw candidate status if the institution fails to continue to meet the CPME eligibility requirements or demonstrates inadequate progress in

satisfying CPME standards and requirements. **The achievement of candidate status does not guarantee eventual preaccreditation or accreditation.** If the institution fails to be preaccredited by the end of the candidate status period, which may extend no longer than three years, the institution will be provided full opportunity to request procedural reconsideration and appeal the decision of the Council in accordance with the procedures described in CPME 130.

Upon the granting of candidate status, the new college will have the right and privilege to solicit applications from and admit students, offer medical instruction within the approved podiatric medical curriculum, and announce its candidate status. Candidate status may not be designated as “accreditation” until the new college is accredited.

When an institution that has obtained candidate status has enrolled students in the first of the four academic years, the Council will conduct an on-site evaluation for the purpose of determining preaccreditation. Preaccreditation is the category that may be granted a new college that has achieved candidate status and the Council has determined that it is likely to succeed in obtaining accreditation. In order for the Council to grant preaccreditation to a new college holding candidate status, the new college must demonstrate that it meets, or has in place plans to meet, the accreditation standards and requirements by submitting an updated self-study to the Council along with all applicable fees. The Council will schedule an on-site evaluation to take place before the midpoint of the second year of the curriculum to review progress in the implementation of the educational program and the status of planning for later stages of the program.

October 2024

The Council determined that the Residency Genesis Report will be changed to a Residency Availability Report due to the current excess of residency positions experienced in the profession, including new positions that have been created organically as reported by the CPME’s Residency Review Committee. According to CPME 109, Eligibility Requirements, the statement, “the school must demonstrate that students have (or will have) access to an adequate number of residency positions” will be reviewed within the context of the current environment where schools are experiencing lower enrollment and an excess of residency positions. However, the School should continue its work to create new residency positions.

On-site Evaluation to determine preaccreditation status: November 4-7, 2024

May 2025

Based on the review of the comprehensive report of the evaluation team, the school’s written response to the team report, submission of the updated teach out plan and residency availability table, and presentation to the Accreditation Committee (Committee) on May 1, 2025, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education accepted the Committee’s recommendation and elected to **grant preaccreditation status** to the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic medicine (LECOM) School of Podiatric Medicine. A comprehensive on-site evaluation to assess accreditation and compliance with the CPME accreditation standards will be scheduled for summer 2026. The maximum first-year class enrollment for the school is 40.

The evaluation team that conducted the on-site evaluation of the school November 4-7, 2024, made nine recommendations and identified no areas of noncompliance from CPME 120, *Standards and Requirements for Accrediting Colleges of Podiatric Medicine*. After reviewing the school’s response to the team report, the Council accepted the Accreditation Committee’s recommendation and determined that three recommendations have been adequately addressed, and six recommendations remain. The school’s responses, demonstrating progress in addressing the recommendations, are due by September 1, 2025, and will be reviewed during the Accreditation Committee and Council meetings scheduled for October 15–18, 2025.

Determination of Accreditation from CPME 130 (p. 9):

After the institution receives preaccreditation status, the Council will schedule an accreditation evaluation to occur late in the third year or early in the fourth year of the curriculum. In preparation for this on-site evaluation, the college again updates its self-study. If, upon review of the on-site evaluation team report, the Council determines the college complies with all accreditation standards, initial accreditation may be granted for a time period extending for four years from the date the initial accreditation was granted. If minor issues are found, the Council may grant accreditation but require additional progress reports.

If the Council determines there are substantial noncompliance issues that could be resolved within a relatively limited period of time, it may continue the program's preaccreditation status for an additional year. If continuation of preaccreditation is granted, the program may be required to cease admitting new students and focus its resources on students already enrolled. The Council may request a written progress report or conduct a focused on-site evaluation within the one-year continuation period to assess progress in achieving compliance. If the college demonstrates satisfactory compliance, it may then be granted accreditation, and it may again enroll new students if it had been required to suspend new admissions.

If the Council determines there are substantial noncompliance issues that cannot be resolved within a relatively limited period of time, or that a college whose preaccreditation has been continued has failed to remedy the problems identified at the time preaccreditation was continued, it will give notice that it intends to withdraw preaccreditation. A decision to withdraw preaccreditation is subject to appeal. If the Council makes a final decision to withdraw preaccreditation, it will make every effort to help enrolled students transfer to other accredited programs. If preaccreditation is withdrawn, the college may not reapply for CPME accreditation for a period of one year from the time the final decision to withdraw was communicated in writing to the institution.

Last updated 10.31.2025