

## Summary of Substantive Changes

April 2026

To ensure regulatory compliance, additional revisions and policies were added to both CPME 120 and 130 concerning religious missions, significant growth, preaccreditation, additional locations, and correspondence courses and direct assessment education. More information can be found below.

### **CPME 120, Standards and Requirements for Accrediting Colleges of Podiatric Medicine**

- Streamlined the explanatory “Interpretation” statements that appear immediately under each standard into bulleted outlines to separate and highlight topics within each statement for greater clarity and ease of review. The “Interpretation” for Standard 1.0 remains in narrative form.
- Eliminated references to a college functioning as a free-standing institution (page 4).
- Removed statements related to encouragement of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Council’s operations and related to college administration, faculty, staff, and students (pages 3 and 6).
- Added to Interpretation section of standard 1 the following: The Council respects the stated mission of the institution, including religious missions. CPME does not use as a negative factor the institution's religious mission-based policies, decisions, and practices in the areas covered by the regulations set forth by the Secretary of Education in § 602.16(a)(1)(ii), (iii), (iv), (vi), and (vii).
- Moved several requirements, self-study questions, and self-study materials to better correspond to their related requirements.
- Added stakeholder participation in developing and revising the college’s mission statement (page 7).
- Added detail to the content of the mission statement, clarifying that it must define the purpose of the college and its commitment to the education and development of competent, ethical, and compassionate podiatric physicians (standard 1.A.).
- Enhanced specificity of requirements related to the components, purposes, implementation, and timeline of the strategic planning process, and the individuals involved (standard 1.B.).
- Clarified that the institution may be established as either a for-profit or nonprofit entity (standard 2.A.).
- Clarified the reporting requirements to CPME (standard 2.E.).
- Revised titles of chief academic officer to dean and clinical education director to clinical education dean (standards 3.B. and 3.C.).
- Delineated the roles, authority, responsibilities, and reporting relationships of the dean relative to the overall organizational structure of the parent institution.
- Added that the dean and the clinical education dean must be licensed and free of any current disciplinary actions or sanctions (standards 3.B. and 3.C.).

- Removed the requirement that the structure of the curriculum take place over four academic years with each academic year consisting of at least 30 weeks. The revised language includes the following: The podiatric medical curriculum for the pre-clinical and clinical sciences includes at least 120 weeks, or equivalent, of instruction (standard 4.A.).
- Clarified that the faculty must be involved in developing and revising the competencies, and the required self-study materials must include a curriculum map demonstrating in which learning experiences each competency/domain is delivered (standard 4.B.).
- Revised standard 4.E. to Clinical Sciences and Instruction and added standard 4.F. Clinical Instruction.
- Added standard 4.G. to include distance education within the curriculum standards and revised standard 7.E. concerning distance education as it relates to process.
- Added that the curriculum must include content related to each organ system at each phase of life (standard 4.D.).
- Moved a portion of the requirement about distance education from Standard 7.0. to Standard 4.0., while retaining Requirement 7.E. related to distance education.
- Clarified that curricular evaluation involves assessment of a variety of outcome data (standard 4.H.).
- Removed the diversity standard 5.E. due to recent executive orders issued by the current presidential administration.
- Added a new requirement related to faculty complaints (5.D.), including self-study questions related to establishment and implementation of the process, including final disposition, and record-keeping, as well as the college's obligation to inform faculty of the CPME complaint procedures.
- Revised the requirement related to scholarly activity to include scholarship of teaching (standard 5.I.).
- Clarified the requirement related to maximum enrollment to state that enrollment may exceed the CPME-identified maximum by no more than 10 percent averaged over three years. (standard 6.B.).
- Removed self-study questions in the maximum enrollment requirement to eliminate content pertaining to how the college determines the number of students in the incoming class and related to the role tuition plays in the college's determination of the number of students to enroll (standard 6.B.).
- Added materials to be included in the self-study related to student policies: orientation schedule, accommodation policy, health risk policy or presentation, and student insurance policy (standard 6.E.).
- Moved the list of requested information about programmatic outcomes (graduation rates, national board examination pass rates, and residency placement rates) from the self-study questions into the requirement itself (standard 8).
- Included within Standard 8.C. that only enrolled students should be included when reporting the APMLE scores.

## **CPME 130, Procedures for Accrediting Colleges of Podiatric Medicine**

- Removed statements about seeking membership diversity on the Accreditation Committee and on-site evaluation teams (pages 3 and 11).
- Added the following statement related to document reviews: Mandatory changes due to the publication of regulatory changes by the US Secretary of Education (Secretary) or the standards of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) will be adopted by the CPME within the prescribed timeline and the community of interest will be notified (page 5).
- Added that if an institution does not participate in title IV, HEA programs through CPME, CPME's granting of accreditation or preaccreditation will specify that the grant, by request of the institution, does not include participation by the institution in title IV, HEA programs (page 6).
- Added that an institution for which the Council takes a probationary accreditation action or an adverse action must place its public disclosure of this status in a prominent position on its website to ensure that access to this information is readily available and that the institution must include the Council's URL and email contact information (pages 16, 17, 38 and 40).
- Added "and preaccreditation" to the following statement: The Council will withhold accreditation when a new college fails to demonstrate during the candidate and preaccreditation status period its ability to satisfy the Council's standards and requirements (page 17).
- Added to Enforcement of Standards the following reasons for an extension for good cause:
  - A natural disaster or other catastrophic event significantly impacting an institution's or program's operations (page 19)
  - Accepting students from another institution that is implementing a teach-out or closing (page 20).
- Removed the requirements that the chief executive officer disseminate notification of the Council action and the final evaluation team report to each member of the governing board of the institution and make the report readily available for review by faculty, students, administrative personnel, and constituents of the institution (page 200).
- Removed the requirements that the chief executive officer provide correspondence notifying the college of the Council action and the final evaluation team report to the nationally recognized accrediting agency if the institution holds membership in a nationally recognized institutional accrediting agency or make the report available at the time of the next scheduled on-site evaluation by the institutional accrediting agency (page 22).
- Added the following new information related to substantive changes to the college that require that an on-site evaluation be conducted, if there is addition of instruction which represents a significant departure, in terms of curriculum content or method of delivery, from the curriculum as offered at the last on-site evaluation of the college of podiatric medicine: Concerning distance education delivery, the

interpretation of “significant departure” is defined as 50 percent or more of the credit hours delivered throughout the program (page 27).

- Also added to this section clarification that CPME accreditation does not allow for the inclusion of correspondence courses or direct assessment education.
- Added section related to Additional Information Related to Additional Locations.
- Clarified the deadline for requesting an increase in enrollment to state: Concerning authorization to increase enrollment, the college must notify the Council 60 days prior to the scheduled Council meeting that the college wants the increase in enrollment to be reviewed and must provide requested documentation at least 30 days prior to the scheduled Council meeting during which the change will be reviewed (page 30).
- Changed the type of on-site evaluation from a full visit to a focused visit when the Council considers a request for procedural reconsideration and elects to defer action and schedule an on-site evaluation. Deleted the sentence about the cost of this visit being shared equally by the Council and the institution (page 33).
- Added that when the Council takes an accreditation action, the college must disclose this action in a prominent position on the college’s website to ensure that access to this information is readily available and that this public disclosure must include information for CPME (i.e., URL and email address) so that the information can be verified (page 38).
- Revised the headcount policy to eliminate reference to 4½-year and 5-year students enrolled in first-year courses in the fall semester (page 47).
- Added policy related to Monitoring of Headcount Enrollment and Significant Growth.
- Added requirements related to preaccreditation: CPME will not move an accredited institution or program from accredited to preaccredited status unless, following the loss of accreditation, the institution or program applies for initial accreditation and is awarded preaccreditation status under the new application. Institutions that participated in the title IV, HEA programs before the loss of accreditation are subject to the requirements of 34 CFR 600.11(c); and all credits and degrees earned and issued by an institution or program holding preaccreditation from a nationally recognized agency are considered by the Secretary to be from an accredited institution or program.