CPME 109

COLLEGE ACCREDITATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

COUNCIL ON PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

Adopted April 2026

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (Council or CPME) considers applications for accreditation from new colleges of podiatric medicine and from colleges that have had accreditation withheld or withdrawn. Because the Council must be confident that a candidate institution has the authority, means, and resources to adequately support an educational program in podiatric medicine, the following eligibility requirements have been established for colleges applying for initial accreditation or reaccreditation. These requirements must be satisfied in order that an application for candidate status, leading to accreditation, may be considered.

The college applying for accreditation has the burden of proving that it meets all eligibility requirements and that it is in continuous compliance with the Council's accreditation standards. The Accreditation Committee and the Council have the responsibility of ensuring that a college applying for initial accreditation or reaccreditation carries this burden of proof.

1. **State Authorization**

    - Evidence that the college has been granted the legal authority to offer the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree under applicable state law.

2. **Obligations to Students**

    - Demonstration that the college has resources sufficient for the effective operation of the college and the discharge of its obligations to students, specifically including, but not limited to, ensuring that students have access to an adequate number of residency positions.
    - Evidence that the college can attract students who are qualified and capable of successfully completing and benefiting from the education and training offered by the institution.

3. **Students**

    - Class size and total enrollment projections based upon resources to be available to the educational program.
    - Clearly defined admissions policies, selection criteria, and technical standards for matriculants.
    - Adequate resources for student services.

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- Written policies for students related to evaluation, advancement, graduation, and conduct.

4. **Institutional Setting**

- Evidence that podiatric medical education will be conducted in an environment that is conducive to scholarly inquiry and research, such as would be available in an institutionally accredited university or academic health center.
- Delineation of the relationship of the college to the parent institution, if applicable.
- Delineation of the governance structure of the college, including
    - the governing board, if applicable;
    - appointment of and job description for the dean;
    - plan for the appointment of the dean's senior administrative staff and leadership of academic units; and
    - the committee structure.

5. **Educational Program**

- A curriculum for the entire program.
- Evidence that the curriculum will be based on a set of learning outcomes and competencies that provide the learning experiences necessary for graduates to enter into residency training.
- Syllabi for the pre-clinical and clinical experiences that include learning objectives and follow a progression that leads to the achievement of the learning outcomes and competencies.
- Specification of teaching methods and student evaluation methods that are best suited to meet and document achievement of the learning outcomes and competencies.
- The college's formal plan to develop clinical sites and experiences that provide a variety of supervised patient care experiences in a number of settings.

6. **Faculty**

- Faculty hired for the college's first year of operation.
- Recruitment plan for the entirety of the program.
- Written faculty policies for appointment, promotion, and tenure (if applicable).

7. **Assessment Plan**

- An assessment plan that provides regular and timely input regarding the effectiveness of the educational program.
- Defined student and programmatic outcomes.
- Identification of the methods to measure achievement of outcomes.
- Description of how the college will use the assessment results.

8. **Resources**

- Evidence that the college has the financial commitment and resources, human resources, and facilities to support the budget for the first four years the college is in operation.
- Documentation that physical resources will be in place for the first-year curriculum (classroom, laboratory, office space, study space, support services, etc.).
- Physical resource plans for the entirety of the program.
- Documentation that the information needs of the faculty and students (for teaching, research, and patient care) will be addressed by library and information technology systems.
- Documentation that students have (or will have) access to an adequate number of residency positions.
- Demonstration that the college has a level of funds in reserve that will be made available for the entirety of instruction over all years of the program until graduation of the first class of students. An applicant must demonstrate the existence of a segregated, unencumbered reserve fund escrowed until graduation of the first class of students that is equal to tuition multiplied by the number of students of the inaugural class multiplied by the number of years of study. These funds may not be borrowed funds and may be used only to provide substantial financial support for the costs of a teach-out agreement should an agreement become necessary. Interest earned on such funds may be used at any time by the applicant to achieve its mission and objectives.

9. **Implementation Plan**

- Evidence that the college has prepared a master plan designed to guide the establishment of the educational program and to ensure compliance with the CPME accreditation standards and requirements. This plan is to include the sequencing of actions to be taken in establishing the college including the actions to be completed, the proposed dates for each, and the parties responsible for each.

10. **Applicant Obligations and Accreditation Committee and Council Oversight**

- By applying for accreditation or reaccreditation, the college accepts and agrees that it has the responsibility to demonstrate continuous eligibility for accreditation and compliance with all accrediting standards, requirements, and policies as established by the Accreditation Committee and Council. The college has the duty of providing the Accreditation Committee and the Council with complete, truthful, and accurate information establishing the college's compliance with all accreditation requirements if accreditation is to be granted and maintained.
- The college has an obligation to prove that it has met in a timely manner any commitment or representation it made to the Accreditation Committee and/or the Council with respect to the college's accreditation or reaccreditation.
- The Accreditation Committee or the Council may require the college to submit reports on its compliance with any accreditation requirement at any time that the Committee or the Council believes that monitoring of compliance is warranted. The Accreditation Committee or the Council shall establish the content, frequency, and format of any

required report and may impose an ongoing interim reporting requirement in conjunction with any accreditation process, procedure, or substantive standard.

- The Accreditation Committee and the Council may use information and documentation secured through required reports to make any accreditation decision permitted by the Council's procedures including denial or withdrawal of accreditation, shortening the period of accreditation, requiring early renewal of accreditation, or imposing additional requirements on the college.