

CAAHEP Accreditation Policies and Procedures

New and Revised Policies - Proposed

In 2025, the CAAHEP Governance Committee approved a project to divide the CAAHEP Policies and Procedures into two separate documents: the Accreditation Policies and Procedures (APP) and the Operations Manual (OM).

Accreditation **Policies and Procedures** is a public-facing document that establishes the policies and procedures governing CAAHEP's accreditation activities. It serves as the primary reference for programs seeking or maintaining CAAHEP accreditation and for other stakeholders seeking to understand CAAHEP's accreditation processes.

The form to submit comments is available on the CAAHEP Website for the period of August 1-31, 2026.

New Policies

Policy Number	Policy Name	Full Wording of Policy
1.1.1	Document Purpose	The CAAHEP Accreditation Policies and Procedures is a public-facing document for use by programs, students, and other stakeholders to understand the requirements for seeking and maintaining CAAHEP accreditation. This document does not include applications, reporting templates, or other documents related to CAAHEP accreditation. Stakeholders can find these forms on the organizational website at www.caahep.org .
1.2.1	Accreditation Quality Assurance and Continuous Quality Improvement	Policy: The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredits health professions programs for disciplines approved by the Commission. The program review conducted by CAAHEP and its Committees on Accreditation (CoAs) includes elements of quality assurance and continuous quality improvement. Quality assurance is demonstrated through a comprehensive review of a program's compliance with profession-specific Standards. Continuous quality improvement is reflected in the program's ongoing self-assessment, using reports, outcome data, and other information to support program effectiveness and improvement.
3.2.4.2	Alternate Locations	Alternate Location: A location where some educational instruction for a CAAHEP-accredited program occurs. Policy: Alternate locations may be allowed and defined further by CoA policy. CAAHEP does not list alternate locations of instruction in CAAHEP records or in program website listings.

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3.2.5.1	Award Change	Policy: A change to the academic award (degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential) of a CAAHEP-accredited program requires CoA review and CAAHEP accreditation action for the program at the new award level. Procedures: 1. The program submits the following to the CoA: • Documentation required by CoA policy • Final graduation date for students in the existing program • Matriculation date (first enrollment date) for students in the program at the new award level 2. The program submits documentation that the proposed award change has been approved, reported, or otherwise recognized as required by the program sponsor's institutional accreditor, state authorizing body, or other oversight authority, if applicable 3. The CoA reviews the proposed change in award, using its current accreditation review process. 4. The CoA submits an accreditation recommendation to CAAHEP for the program at the new award level and recommends the next evaluation date, which may be the same as that of the discontinued program 5. The CAAHEP Board of Directors reviews and acts on the CoA recommendation. 6. If approved, CAAHEP issues a decision letter to the program sponsor confirming the accreditation status of the program at the new award level and acknowledging discontinuation of the program at the prior award level 7. The 'Date first accredited' for the program at the new award level is the date of the CAAHEP Board's action. 8. The discontinued program is considered voluntarily withdrawn from accreditation, effective the day after the final graduation date for students in that program. 9. If the proposed change is not approved, the existing accredited program remains accredited at its current award level, if otherwise in compliance with the Standards, and the program at the new award level is not accredited by CAAHEP 10. The discontinued program continues to appear on the CAAHEP website until the effective date of voluntary withdrawal.
4.1	Accreditation Review Framework	Policy: Accreditation reviews are conducted based on program compliance with the applicable CAAHEP Standards. Programs are considered for CAAHEP accreditation review only upon written request from the program sponsor, as specified in the Request for Accreditation Services (RAS) form.
6.1.1	Data Accuracy	Policy: Programs must provide CAAHEP, its Committees on Accreditation, and the public with accurate information. The program certifies that all data and information reported to CAAHEP and the CoAs are accurate and verifiable.

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		• The verification is part of the Annual Report review process and the Request for Accreditation Services form (RAS) that program sponsors complete each time a program submits for program review. • A program must immediately notify CAAHEP and the CoA when any data or information provided to CAAHEP or the CoA, or publicly disclosed, is incorrect or misleading, and must take all necessary steps to correct any incorrect or misleading information publicly.
6.2.2.6	Programs with Historical Award Changes	Policy: Programs that have transitioned from a previously accredited award level or from one program sponsor to another (transfer of sponsorship) may communicate this history, but must clearly distinguish between current and historical accreditation status. Examples of acceptable communication include: • “[program name] has been continuously accredited by CAAHEP, transitioning from associate to bachelor’s level in 2020.” • “CAAHEP-accredited since 2010 (Associate degree 2010–2019, Bachelor degree 2020–present).” • “The [program name] was transferred from [previous program sponsor] in 2021, where it was CAAHEP-accredited from 2005–2020.” Programs should avoid language that could create confusion about which award level is currently accredited or suggest that accreditation simultaneously covers multiple award levels. Programs should maintain clear documentation of which accreditation status applied during each student's enrollment period to support verification requests from employers, licensing boards, or other stakeholders.
7.1	General Complaint Policies	Policy: This Section governs complaints alleging that an accredited program is not in compliance with applicable CAAHEP Standards or accreditation policies. This Section does not govern complaints alleging that CAAHEP or a Committee on Accreditation (CoA), or their representatives acting in an official capacity, failed to follow published Standards, policies, procedures, or codes of conduct, nor does it govern reports of suspected internal wrongdoing involving CAAHEP’s governance, leadership, staff, or volunteers. Complaints against CAAHEP or a CoA are governed by the CAAHEP Operations Manual. Reports of suspected internal wrongdoing may be addressed through the CAAHEP Whistleblower Policy. CAAHEP may determine that a concern submitted under this Section is more appropriately handled through another established reporting or complaint process and may refer the matter accordingly.
7.1.5	Requests for Anonymity	Policy: Requests for anonymity are considered based on the circumstances of the complaint and in accordance with this policy. A complainant may request that their identity be kept confidential during the review and

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		investigation process, to the extent feasible. CAAHEP consults with the appropriate CoA in determining whether the request can be honored.
9.2.1	Resolution of Conflicts Among Requirements	Policy: When potential conflict exists between the Standards or Accreditation Policies and Procedures and other requirements, the following resolution order applies: • Profession-specific Standards control the evaluation of program compliance • These CAAHEP Accreditation Policies and Procedures govern CAAHEP accreditation processes and apply to all programs seeking or maintaining CAAHEP accreditation • CoA policies, procedures, forms, and interpretive materials may supplement the Standards and these Accreditation Policies and Procedures, but may not conflict with, exceed, or override them • Federal and state laws or regulations govern when legally applicable • Requirements of institutional accreditors or other authorities do not alter CAAHEP Standards or policies unless required by law
9.2.2	Procedures for Resolving Questions or Conflicts	Policy: Programs should direct questions regarding the application of the Standards, CoA policies, and routine accreditation review requirements to the appropriate CoA in the first instance. Questions that cannot be resolved by the CoA, or that involve interpretation of CAAHEP policy or a conflict between CoA requirements and CAAHEP requirements, may be referred to CAAHEP. The CAAHEP Board of Directors retains final authority for interpretation of these Accreditation Policies and Procedures and unresolved questions regarding the Standards. Procedures: 1. A program submits its question or concern to the appropriate CoA in accordance with CoA policy. 2. The CoA reviews the issue and responds based on the applicable Standards, these Accreditation Policies and Procedures, CoA policy, and any existing CAAHEP interpretation. 3. If the issue involves a potential conflict between CoA policy and CAAHEP requirements, or if the CoA determines that CAAHEP interpretation is needed, the matter is referred to CAAHEP. 4. CAAHEP staff review the matter and may provide guidance based on existing policy or prior written interpretation. 5. If the matter is not resolved through existing policy or guidance, CAAHEP may refer it to the appropriate CAAHEP committee for review and recommendation. 6. The CAAHEP Board of Directors makes the final determination on questions requiring formal interpretation of these Accreditation Policies and Procedures or unresolved questions concerning the Standards.

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9.3	Disclaimer	Policy: CAAHEP provides accreditation services based on program compliance with published Standards as of the date of evaluation. Program sponsors acknowledge that: • Accreditation status reflects program compliance at the time of review • Continuous compliance with the Standards is the program sponsor's responsibility • Professional credentialing and licensure requirements are determined by other organizations.

Substantially Revised Policies

For many of the revised policies, prior portions of approved policies were used to create the revised policy. In the left column is the referenced approved policy from the CAAHEP Policies and Procedures, published July 2025, and in the right column is the Accreditation Policies and Procedures policy. For some policies in the Accreditation Policies and Procedures, portions or multiple policies are referenced. In some cases, two or more policies are grouped together in the revision as the source policies are the same

Origin Policy #	Current Policy Language	New APP Policy #	2026 APP Policy Language
205 Concentrations and Add-on Tracks / Satellites	Satellites Satellite - off-campus location(s) that are advertised or otherwise made known to individuals outside the sponsor. The off-campus location(s) must offer all the professional didactic and laboratory content of the program. Satellite(s) are included in the CAAHEP accreditation of the sponsor and function under the direction of the Key Personnel of the program. Committees on Accreditation may establish additional requirements that are consistent with CAAHEP Standards and policies.	3.2.4.1 Satellites	Satellite: An off-campus location that offers all professional didactic and laboratory content of the program, operates under the program sponsor, and is overseen by program key personnel. Policy: CoA approval of satellites is contingent upon the program demonstrating adequate oversight for education at the satellite location, ensuring compliance with the Standards. CoAs may establish additional requirements that align with CAAHEP Standards and policies. Procedures: • If allowed by the Standards and CoA policy, a program may apply to have a Satellite location of the same program at an authorized location.

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	CoAs must inform CAAHEP of the addition of an approved satellite.		• The CoA reviews the application for a Satellite according to the Standards and policies. • If approved, the CoA notifies CAAHEP of the Satellite program location approval. • CAAHEP adds the Satellite location to the program record and website listing.
211 Actions Not Requiring Board Approval — Change of Name/Change of Ownership	Change of Name/Change of Ownership If a program sponsor undergoes a change of name and/or change of controlling ownership, this information must be submitted to CAAHEP and the appropriate Committee(s) on Accreditation. If the CoA determines that such change will have no impact on the accredited program(s), it will notify CAAHEP of that fact, and no CAAHEP Board action will be necessary. If the change is more significant and will impact factors mentioned in Policy 210, then it will be considered a Transfer of Sponsorship and should follow the procedure outlined in that section.	5.4.1 Change of Name/Change of Ownership	Policy: When a program sponsor undergoes a change of name or controlling ownership, the program sponsor must notify CAAHEP and the appropriate CoA. CAAHEP reviews the change, in consultation with the appropriate CoA, to determine whether it affects the accredited program’s compliance with the Standards or otherwise requires action under these policies. If the change does not affect program compliance and does not meet the criteria for Transfer of Sponsorship, it may be processed administratively without further action by the CAAHEP Board of Directors. If the change is more significant and meets the criteria for Transfer of Sponsorship outlined in Section 5.5.1, it is processed in accordance with that policy.
302 Public Notification / Public Use of CAAHEP Accreditation Status	In at least one of its comprehensive publications customarily used to officially convey institutional information, it must state: “The [name of program] is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of [name of Committee on Accreditation].”	6.2.2.4 Programs with CAAHEP Accreditation	Policy: CAAHEP-accredited programs must use the following language in at least one of the comprehensive publications customarily used to convey program information officially: “The [program name] program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of [name of COA] and complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Educational Programs in [profession].”

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	The program may also include the address and phone number: 9355 - 113th St. N, #7709, Seminole, FL 33775, 727-210-2350. Provided the requirements of paragraph B.1 have been met, the sponsor may choose, but is not required, to include the program accreditation statement in small publications such as newspaper ads, flyers, pamphlets, etc.		Programs that include learning concentrations or add-on tracks consistent with CAAHEP policy must include the additional statement: “The program accreditation includes the following approved concentrations/add-on tracks: [insert approved concentrations/add-on tracks].” The [program name] must be the approved title of the program that includes the award given to students upon completion of the program and should match the record in the Find an Accredited Program feature on the CAAHEP website. Example Here is an example statement for an Associate of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Sample College, with Obstetrics and Gynecology and Abdominal Extended Sonography learning concentrations. “The Associate of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The program accreditation includes the following concentrations: Obstetrics and Gynecology and Abdominal Extended Sonography.” Provided the requirements of this section have been met, the program may include its accreditation statement in smaller publications, such as newspaper ads, flyers, and pamphlets.

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602 Complaints Regarding Accredited Programs — Required Elements / Consent	If a complaint is unsigned or the complainant does not consent to the complaint process or disclosures outlined in this Complaint Policy, CAAHEP will review the complaint but may, in its exclusive discretion and with notice to the complainant, elect not to process the complaint.	7.1.4 Unsigned or Non- Consenting Complaints	Policy: If a complaint is unsigned or the complainant does not consent to the complaint process or disclosures outlined in this Complaint Policy, CAAHEP will not process the complaint.
602 Complaints Regarding Accredited Programs — Review by CAAHEP	Review by CAAHEP Either the complainant or the program may request a review of the CoA's determination of the complaint by submitting a written request for review to the CAAHEP Executive Director. The request for review must specify and document the basis for the request, which may include that the CoA did not follow published procedures or did not consider or give sufficient weight to information provided by the complainant or the program in reaching its final determination. If a review is requested, CAAHEP may request from the CoA a copy of all documents and evidence related to the complaint.	7.5.1 Request for Review	Policy: Either the complainant or the program may request a review of the CoA's determination of the complaint by submitting a written request for review to the CAAHEP Executive Director. Procedures: • The request for review must specify and document the basis for the request, which may include that the CoA did not follow published procedures or did not consider or give sufficient weight to information provided by the complainant or the program in reaching its final determination. • If a review is requested, CAAHEP may request from the CoA a copy of all documents and evidence related to the complaint. • Reviews are conducted according to the procedures in the Operational Manual Section 7.3. • Decisions made under this review process are final and not subject to further internal review or appeal.
602 Complaints Regarding Accredited Programs — Records of Complaints	F. Records of Complaints 1. CAAHEP maintains records of all complaints. Complaints against applicants and accredited programs and their resolution are kept for five years, and CAAHEP summaries of complaints are provided to the CoAs associated with the program listed in the complaint upon	7.6.1 Record Retention	Policy: CAAHEP maintains records of all complaints according to established procedures. Procedures: • Complaints against accredited programs and their resolution are kept for five years, and CAAHEP summaries of complaints are provided to the CoAs associated with the program listed in the complaint upon request.

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	request. The CoAs may consider the frequency, pattern, and seriousness of complaints about an accredited program in recommending a program's application for initial or continuing accreditation. 2. A log of complaints filed is tabulated, summarized, and presented at least annually to the CAAHEP Board of Directors. The summary provides an analysis of any unresolved complaints, categories of complaints by nature and source, and any other information the Board of Directors requests regarding complaints received by CAAHEP and its CoAs.		• The CoAs shall consider the frequency, pattern, and seriousness of complaints about an accredited program in recommending a program's application for initial or continuing accreditation. • A report of complaints filed is presented at least annually to the CAAHEP Board of Directors. • The summary provides an analysis of any unresolved complaints, categories of complaints by nature and source, and any other information the Board of Directors requests regarding complaints received by CAAHEP and its CoAs.
102, 201, 204	102 Recognition of CAAHEP as a Specialized Accrediting Agency CAAHEP maintains voluntary, non-governmental recognition as a specialized accrediting agency. 201 Authority for Accreditation CAAHEP is the accrediting agency. CAAHEP delegates to its Board of Directors the final decision-making authority as well as the responsibility for assuring that accreditation recommendations from the CoAs follow due process and comply with the accreditation Standards. 204 Accreditation Definitions Accreditation is granted when a program is in compliance with the accreditation Standards and remains in effect until due	9.1 Scope of CAAHEP Accreditation	Policy: The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is a programmatic accrediting organization that accredits health professions education programs within disciplines approved by the Commission. CAAHEP is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit degree programs. CAAHEP also accredits non-degree programs within its scope of health science disciplines. CAAHEP accreditation reflects compliance with applicable CAAHEP Standards and accreditation policies. It supports program quality, accountability and continuous improvement. CAAHEP accreditation does not: • guarantee graduate eligibility for professional licensure, certification, employment, or credentialing • override state or federal legal or regulatory requirements; • alter the responsibility of the program sponsor to comply with institutional accreditor requirements

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	process has demonstrated cause for its withdrawal.		• create legal obligations beyond those established in the applicable Standards, these Accreditation Policies and Procedures, and other published CAAHEP requirements