

Accreditation is NOT a FOUR LETTER Word!

George W. Hatch, Jr., Ed.D., LP, EMT-P

CoAEMSP Executive Director

D. Randy Kuykendall, MLS, NREMT-P

Chairman, CoAEMSP Board of Directors

What's The Value of Accreditation?

- CAAHEP's accreditation= designed to support a comprehensive CQI process.
- Peer Review process is a key element.
- Accreditation is uniquely AMERICAN, particularly in medical education
- EMS – the ONLY allied-health profession that does NOT mandate graduation from accredited school.

Who is CAAHEP?

- The **C**ommission on **A**ccreditation of **A**llied **H**ealth **E**ducation **P**rograms
- Non-Profit, non-governmental agency. *A fundamental foundation of accreditation!*
- Reviews & accredits over 2000 educational programs
- Largest medical accrediting agency in US

Does CAAHEP Accreditation Supercede our State EMS Office?

- NO. State laws, rules, & regulations remain the central authority
- Does **NOT** replace State rights/responsibilities for credentialing Paramedics.
- Separate & distinct from government certification/licensing.
- Process is designed to supplement & support; truly a facilitative process.

Is CoAEMSP/CAAHEP the ONLY National Accrediting Process for EMS?

- YES, this is the only accreditation process presently available for EMS industry.
- Representatives of ALL medical specialties and organizations serve on the Board
- Recognized by AMA as a profession (1975)

CoA Sponsors

PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATIONS

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
- American College of Surgeons
- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- National Association of EMS Physicians

CoA Sponsors

EMS ORGANIZATIONS

- National Association of EMS Educators
- National Association of EMT's
- National Association of State EMS Officials
- National Registry of EMT's
- *International Association of Fire Chiefs (pending approval)

How Much Does it Cost?

- 3 actual components
- Annual Fee (\$1200.00)
- Annual institutional Fee (\$450.00 to CAAHEP)
- Site Visit (Actual Costs are billed & is variable but on average is \$2000.00- \$2500.00)
 - Payable once every **5 years**.
 - \$500.00 Executive Review.
 - \$250.00 Technology Fee (initial only)
 - Cost to your student equates to roughly **0.8 cents/hour**

How Long will the Process Take?

- One size does not fit all; every situation is unique.
- Dependent on numerous factors (Self Study, ED,SV, Reviewer, BOD, CAAHEP).
- Could be anywhere from 6-12 months (on average) following submission of the self-study.

The Process...

- Enlist help early in your efforts!
- www.coaemsp.org
- Download Instructions and begin building your Self-Study notebook.
- Call CoAEMSP staff at any step in the process for clarification and assistance.

Program Director Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or greater necessary.
- Degree requirement **NOT** EMS or education specific.
- Many options available to attain.
- ANY Program Director without a Bachelor's degree who applies before **1-1-2011** who shows continual progress towards a degree will be recognized for accreditation purposes.

IS Affiliation with a College or University Mandatory?

- Not specifically, there are alternatives available to meet this requirement.
 - a) Post-Secondary academic institution (DOE)
 - b) Foreign post-secondary (CAAHEP approved)
 - c) Hospital, clinic or medical center (USDHS recognized & with ACGME approval)
 - d) Branch of the US military, other governmental, educational, or medical service

Are There Any Other Options?

Consortium

- 2 or more members working together to meet educational need
- One member **MUST** meet the sponsorship requirement
- Partners working in concert to protect the student
- Model agreement on website

Institutional vs. Programmatic

These are different!

- Institutional = accreditation of the college, university, medical school or hospital
 - SACS, WACS, & others
- Programmatic = related to a profession
 - Paramedics in this case
 - RT's, Surgical Techs, Medical Illustrators, etc.
 - OUR focus in EMS is ONLY on Paramedic programs.

What are Most Common Obstacles?

Lack of ...

- PD with Bachelor's degree.
- Adequate MD involvement/oversight.
- Sufficient varieties of clinical & field experiences (various ages/conditions).
- Preceptor training & supervision.
- Student tracking process.

Support to Address Obstacles

- Regardless of S&G issues, assistance is available to facilitate compliance
- Strategies are identified to improve student outcomes
- Ample opportunity for programs to make corrections
- Process is inclusive, collegial, thoughtful, & supportive

How Will Accreditation Help My Community?

- Promotes continual self-analysis & improvement (student protection)
- Evaluates program from outside perspective
- Assists by having external peers promote needed improvements
- Similar accreditation process for trauma centers, EMS services, etc.

How Do I Maintain Accreditation?

- Once achieved, you will be required to demonstrate compliance through annual reports.
- Annual Report Reviews:
 - *job placement
 - *student attrition/retention
 - *pass rates NREMT/State written & practical
 - *graduate & employer surveys

State Visits to Help!!

- CoAEMSP is committed to provide support to states and programs to achieve accreditation.
- Goal is to educate & inform:
 - State EMS Officials
 - Program Directors
 - Educational Leaders
 - Communities of Interest
- CoAEMSP staff available to travel to state meetings as requested. ***No costs to stakeholders.***

Final Thoughts

- Accreditation is a journey, not a destination.
- Practitioners will gain greater credibility & professionalism in serving our patients.
- Necessary step in the evolution of our profession.
- Accreditation **IS** achievable if you are dedicated to increasing professionalism in EMS.
- CoAEMSP is ready & willing to assist