Accreditation is NOT a FOUR LETTER Word!

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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 **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs**
• 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
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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