A Look Behind the Curtain: Demystifying accreditation and CAAHEP
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What is Accreditation – and Why??

“Accreditation” is a review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. In the United States, accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.
Accreditation is an everyday activity
Why is Accreditation Important?

For the **public** → promotes the health, safety and welfare of patients in the pre-hospital setting by assuring competent Paramedics

For **prospective students** → serves a consumer protection purpose. It provides assurance that the program has been evaluated and has met accepted standards established by and with the profession

For **prospective employers** → assurance that the curriculum covers essential skills and knowledge needed for today's jobs

For **graduates** → promotes professional mobility and enhances employment opportunities in positions that base eligibility upon graduation from an accredited program
Why is Accreditation Important?

For practitioners → involves practitioners in the establishment of standards and assures that educational requirements reflect the current training needs of the profession.

For the profession → advances the field by promoting standards of practice and advocating rigorous preparation.

For the technical colleges, colleges, and universities → provides a reliable basis for inter- and intra-institutional cooperative practices, including admissions & transfer of credit.

For the faculty and administrators → it promotes ongoing self-evaluation and continuous improvement and provides an effective system for accountability.

For the program → enhances its national reputation and represents peer recognition.
What is CAAHEP – and Why??
History and Formation

• Originally the Committee on Allied Health Education Accreditation (CAHEA), a committee of the AMA

• In 1994, spun off from the AMA, and reorganized as the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, a 501(c)3 organization
Suddenly, we weren’t in Kansas anymore...
Mission:
CAAHEP provides value to stakeholders by setting standards for quality assurance in health professions education.

Vision:
CAAHEP is the innovative leader for health sciences education accreditation.
CAAHEP Recognition

Recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

• Assures quality and rigor of accrediting organizations
• Serves as a national advocate/voice for accreditation to the government and public
• Fosters communication among regional and specialized accrediting bodies
• Preserves diversity of colleges and universities
CAAHEP Recognition

Similar to what CAAHEP accredited programs go through, CHEA requires:

- CAAHEP submit a self-study
- Respond to request for information
- Report outcomes
- Follow up with progress reports
CAAHEP Structure

Committees on Accreditation (CoAs)

• 25 total CoAs
  - increase of 35% over past 10 years
  - 4 review programs in multiple, related professions
• 32 professions represented
  - increase of 33% over past 10 years
• 3 largest professions: EMS-Paramedic, Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology
Professions within CAAHEP

Advanced Cardiovascular Sonography
Anesthesia Technology
Anesthesiologist Assistant
Art Therapy
Assistive Technology
Cardiovascular Technology
Clinical Research Professional
Cytotechnology
Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Emergency Medical Services – Paramedic
Exercise Physiology/ Exercise Science/ Personal Fitness Training
Inclusive Rehabilitation Studies
Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring
Kinesiotherapy
Lactation Consultant
Medical Assisting
Medical Illustration
Neurodiagnostic Technology
Orthoptics
Orthotic and Prosthetic Assistant / Orthotic and Prosthetic Technician / Orthotist-Prosthetist
Pedorthist
Perfusion
Polysomnographic Technology
Recreational Therapy
Specialist in Blood Bank Technology / Transfusion Medicine
Surgical Assisting/ Surgical Technology
CAAHEP Facts

• Largest programmatic/specialized accreditor in the health sciences field in the U.S.
• Approximately 1300 sponsoring institutions
• More than 2200 accredited programs
  - 46% Junior or Community Colleges
  - 22% Vocational or Technical Schools
  - 20% 4-year College or University
  - 6% Hospital or Medical Center
  - 3% Academic Health Center/Medical School
  - 3% Consortium, DOD, Non-health facility/service
CAAHEP Website

https://www.caahep.org/Home.aspx

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

Search the site...

FIND AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM

RECENT ACCREDITATION ACTIONS

CAAHEP POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

TAKE THE SITE VISITOR QUIZ
CAAHEP Inquiries

Website Activity

• Average weekly visits 11,038
• Number of visits 5/2017 to 12/2019 -- 475,357
• Top visited pages:
  • CAAHEP Home
  • Find an Accredited Program
CAAHEP Resources

For Programs

• Accreditation ABC’s
• Standards and Guidelines
• Frequently Asked Questions
• CAAHEP Logo Use
• Links to Committees on Accreditation
• Archived Webinars
• Opportunities for programs to meet with CoAs during CAAHEP’s Annual Meeting
CAAHEP Resources

For Students/Public

• Profession Descriptions
• Certification/Registration Information
• Careers/Professional Organization Links
• Frequently Asked Questions
• Searchable Database of Accredited Programs
Remember...

We’re here to help.
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