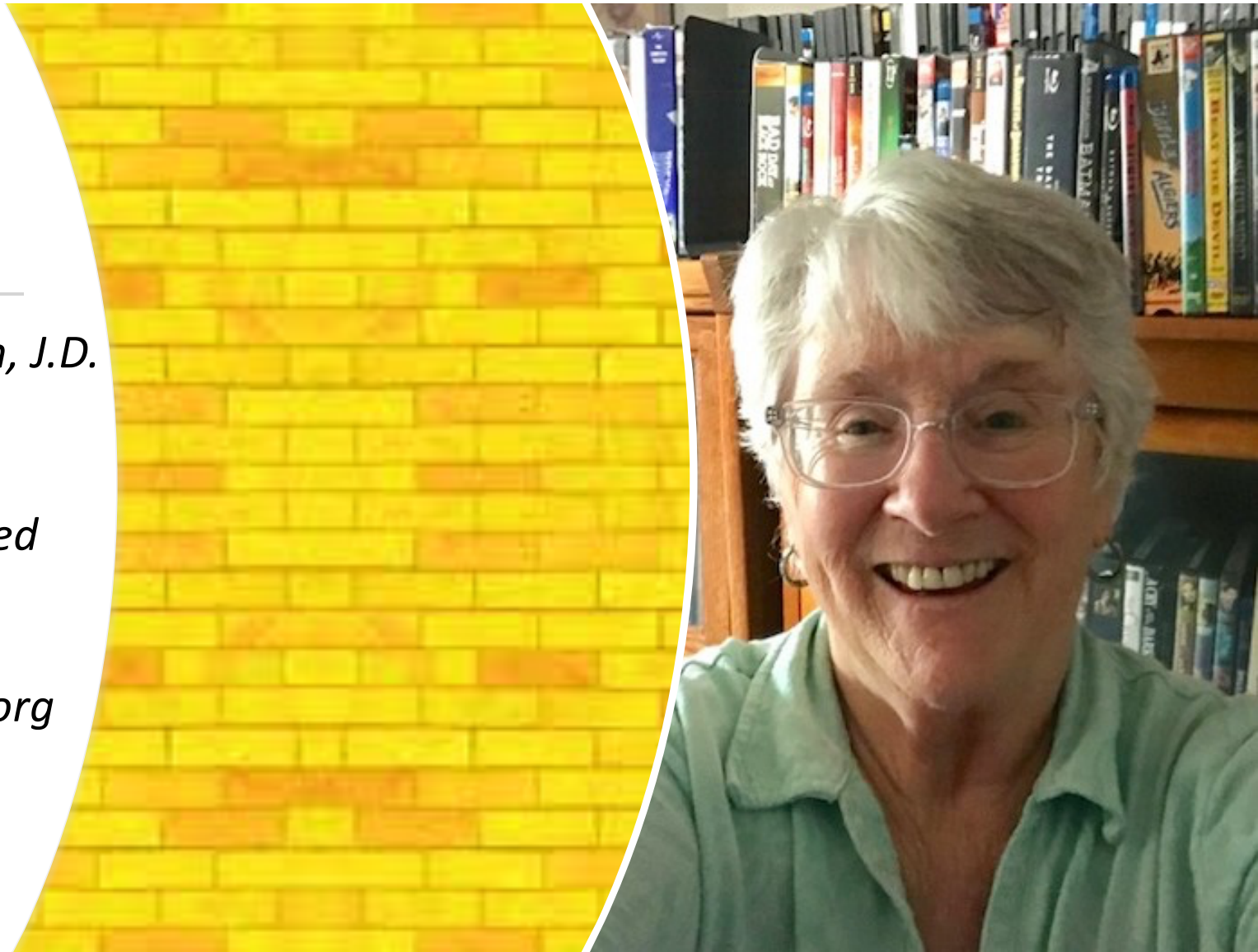


**A Look Behind  
the Curtain:  
Demystifying  
accreditation  
and CAAHEP**




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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.

A background of a yellow brick wall with some orange bricks interspersed. The text is centered on the wall.

*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

The background of the slide is a yellow brick wall with a repeating pattern of bricks and mortar lines. The text is centered on the wall.

**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

[Login to the CAAHEP Hub](#)

727.210.2350 | [mail@caahep.org](mailto:mail@caahep.org)

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**Find an Accredited Program**  
Accredited programs that prepare entry level practitioners in 30 health sciences professions.

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# 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.**

**Please contact us at:**

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**Clearwater, FL 33763**

**727-210-2350**

**[www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)**

