



NOW OPEN: National consultation on the Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Education Accreditation standards

Respond by March 26th, 2021 at 5 p.m. EST to make sure your voice is heard.

Last fall, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture educators and professionals from across the country began work on developing national accreditation standards for Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (TCMA) education programs. This process involved faculty and experienced TCMA professionals from education programs, large and small, public and private from across the country.

After undergoing much discussion and review over the fall and early winter, the draft standards are now being presented for national consultation, and we are pleased to invite you to provide your comments. Please click or cut and paste the link below into your browser to access the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCMAstandards>

Before you start, we'd like to provide you with some background information.

What is the intent of the standards and the accreditation process?

The standards are not a "how-to" manual. For the most part, they avoid specific directives, allowing for uniqueness between education programs and adherence to provincial legislation and regulation. Rather, the standards outline what should be done to ensure consistent, quality education that embeds the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB-TCMPA) entry-level competencies, performance indicators and domains of learning.

It is up to each program that uses the standards to provide evidence to show how it meets the requirements and its rationale for its policies and protocols. Examples of evidence will be provided once the standards are final. After that, trained assessors will review the program's evidence and operations to determine the extent to which it meets the requirements.

NOTE: When the requirements use words like "sufficient" or "regular," it is left up to the education program to provide its definition or rationale for how it addresses these concepts.

Who will use the standards?

The standards will be used by TCMA education programs that want to become accredited by CARB-TCMPA. These programs may be small or large, public or private, and they must be legally permitted to operate as an educational institution in their respective province.

How are the standards structured?

There are nine standard sections and multiple requirements for each standard section. The sections cover the following topics:

1. Leadership
2. Program Operations
3. Student Services and Support
4. Human Resources



5. Curriculum
6. Online Curriculum
7. Clinics and Labs
8. Student Assessment
9. Program Evaluation

Each section is made up of requirements and there are a total of 101 requirements. Ultimately, each requirement will include a list of evidence that may be considered to determine if the requirement is met.

To become accredited, the education program will need to meet an overall percentage of the requirements. There may also be some requirements that the education program must meet, regardless of its performance in other areas.

How long will the survey take?

There are 101 requirements, and each may take a few minutes to read, consider, and provide your comment. This is a significant amount of time, but we believe your input is vital to helping us create the best possible accreditation standards. You can save your responses in the survey as you go rather than trying to complete it all at once by clicking “next” at the bottom of each page—this automatically saves your responses. When you are ready to return to the survey simply [return to the survey](#) using the same browser and computer that you used previously and you will be able to return to the point where you left off. Note: clicking “previous” will not save your responses.

What are we looking for?

We would like you to rate each requirement as to whether you find it to be:

- **Clear** > The intent of the requirement is easy to understand
- **Relevant** > The requirement is pertinent to TCMA education programs
- **Achievable** > The requirement is reasonable and within reach of most education programs
- **Useful** > The requirement will contribute to better education programs

You are also asked to provide your opinion on the standards as a whole and offer ideas on what could be added, amended, or deleted at the end of each section in a comment box.

Do you have to give your name?

Survey responses are anonymous. That said, if you wish to protect your privacy, don't include information that could identify you or your workplace in your answers.

The national consultation will close on **March 26th, 2021 at 5 pm EST**. Please complete the survey before that time so we can ensure your feedback is considered.

For questions related to the survey, don't hesitate to contact FICS by email at info@fics.ca. We thank you for your time and honesty, and we look forward to reviewing your input.