PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) accredits colleges of podiatric medicine. At present, the agency accredits nine colleges of podiatric medicine, and has no provisionally accredited institutions. Eight of the nine institutions are also regionally accredited and the ninth institution is accredited by the New York State Board of Regents.

The agency’s recognition enables its freestanding institutions to establish eligibility to receive Federal student assistance funding under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV). The agency currently serves as the Title IV gatekeeper for one institution.

In addition to accrediting colleges of podiatric medicine, CPME also conducts approval and recognition activities that are outside the scope of the Secretary’s recognition of the agency. Those activities are the approval of residency and fellowship programs and providers of continuing education, and the recognition of podiatric specialty boards.

Recognition History

The agency was on the first list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies published in 1952. Since that time, the Secretary periodically reviewed the agency and has granted continued recognition.

Originally, CPME was solely under the delegated authority of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA). However, in order to come into compliance with the Higher Education Amendments of 1992, important changes were made to give CPME autonomy regarding its decision-making for accreditation purposes.

The last full review of CPME took place at the December 2011 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). After that review, the Department continued the current recognition of the agency, revised its scope of recognition to include the preaccreditation category of “Provisional Accreditation,” and required a compliance report in 12 months on the issues identified in the staff report. That report was accepted as a result of the December 2013 NACIQI meeting.

As part of its evaluation of the agency’s current petition for continued recognition, Department staff reviewed the agency’s narrative and supporting documentation, and observed a meeting of the agency's Accreditation Committee in New Orleans in October 2016. No third-party comments were received in connection with the agency’s petition for continued recognition. In addition, no complaints about the agency were received within the last review period.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third-party comments regarding this agency.