

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** American Podiatric Medical Association (1952 / 2013)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") throughout the United States of freestanding colleges of podiatric medicine and programs of podiatric medicine, including first professional programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. (Title IV Note: Only freestanding schools or colleges of podiatric medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.)
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 02/22/2017
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None.

Executive Summary

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.