



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 22, 2016

Mark S. McKenzie, Executive Director  
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
8941 Aztec Drive, Suite B  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347  
[mark.mckenzie@acaom.org](mailto:mark.mckenzie@acaom.org)

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). Department of Education staff and the National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

Both the staff and NACIQI recommended that I continue ACAOM's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time for a period of five years and approve ACAOM's request for a clarification of its current scope of recognition.

As required, I considered the full record and the transcript of the agency appearance before NACIQI on June 22, 2016.

Under the applicable law and regulations, and the record before me, I am satisfied that accreditation by ACAOM is a required element in enabling the institutions the agency accredits to establish eligibility to participate in programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the HEA, and I concur with the recommendations of Department staff and NACIQI. Accordingly, I renew the Department's recognition of ACAOM as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the clarified scope of recognition as detailed below for five years from the date of this letter.

**Scope of recognition:** The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidacy") throughout the United States of professional non-degree and graduate degree programs, including professional doctoral programs, in the field of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine, as

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well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.

We appreciate the work of ACAOM to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Vadehra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma Vadehra  
Chief of Staff