



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 28, 2016

Alissa Craft, D.O., VP of Accreditation  
American Osteopathic Association  
142 East Ontario Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
[acraftdo@osteopathic.org](mailto:acraftdo@osteopathic.org)

Dear Dr. Craft,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the petition for continued recognition of the American Osteopathic Association, Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). 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 COCA's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with the criteria listed below<sup>1</sup>, and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.

34 C.F.R. § 602.11	34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(vii)
34 C.F.R. § 602.13	34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(viii)
34 C.F.R. § 602.15(a)(3)	34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(ix)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(i)	34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(x)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(ii)	34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(2)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(iii)	34 C.F.R. § 602.17(a)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(iv)	34 C.F.R. § 602.19(b)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(v)	34 C.F.R. § 602.20(a)
34 C.F.R. § 602.16(a)(1)(vi)	34 C.F.R. § 602.26(b)

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<sup>1</sup> The entire text of the criteria may be found in 34 C.F.R. Part 602.

As required, I considered the full record, which included the agency's petition, the final staff report from Department of Education staff, and the transcript of the agency appearance before NACIQI on August 23, 2016.

Under the applicable law and regulations, and the record before me, I am satisfied that accreditation by COCA 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 continue the Department's recognition of COCA as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the scope of recognition as detailed below, with up to 12 months from the date of this letter for COCA to achieve compliance and submit a compliance report within 30 days thereafter documenting compliance, and to permit the Department to review and make a final recognition decision in light of the compliance report under the procedures set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 602, Subpart C.

**Scope of recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy status") throughout the United States of freestanding, public and private non-profit institutions of osteopathic medicine and programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

You should submit your compliance report using the Department's electronic submission system. The system can be accessed at:

<http://opeweb.ed.gov/aslweb/>

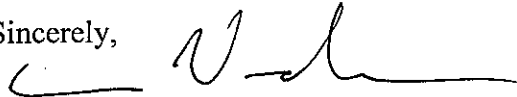
Material that cannot be submitted electronically may be forwarded in hard copy. Please submit four copies of any hard copy material to the Accreditation Group, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, #6W243, Washington DC 20202.

I am confident that COCA will be able to come into full compliance with all the criteria cited above by the deadline, and document compliance in its compliance report within 30 days thereafter. However, I wish to remind you that if COCA does not, the Department may be compelled to limit, suspend or terminate COCA's recognition. Such action is required because of Section 496(l) of the Higher Education Act, a provision added in 1998, that requires the limitation, suspension, or termination of any agency found to be either in noncompliance with the criteria for recognition or ineffective in its performance with respect to those criteria. Alternatively, the law allows the agency to be given up to 12 months to come into compliance. If the agency fails to come into compliance within the specified time frame, the law requires termination of the agency's recognition, unless it is determined that the time frame for coming into compliance should be extended for good cause. Senate Report, No. 105-181 (May 4, 1998)

indicates there is an expectation on the part of Congress that extensions will be granted only rarely and only upon a showing of good cause by the agency. The period the Department is providing in this letter for achieving compliance with the criteria cited above constitutes the maximum time frame (12 months) the law allows you to correct the deficiencies noted in the Department staff analysis.

We appreciate the work of COCA 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', written in a cursive style.

Emma Vadehra  
Chief of Staff