



Route 2: Formal Education: International Applicants

Important Notice – Beware!

The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) does not accredit any colleges or institutions. The NCCAOM does not have a formal affiliation or licensing agreement with any colleges or institutions. The NCCAOM is aware that misleading and inaccurate information has been posted on certain websites claiming a special relationship between the NCCAOM and some non-government approved institutions. The NCCAOM has ordered these institutions to remove the misleading and erroneous information from their websites but some of this information is still found on the web. If you see such claims on any institution's web site, please send the website link, to Irene Basore at [info @ thenccaom.org](mailto:info@thenccaom.org) so that the NCCAOM can take appropriate action. Thank you.

Applicants using this route must have graduated from academic institutions outside of the United States that meet the following requirements:

A) Approval by a foreign government's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, or equivalent foreign government agency.

OR

B) Approval by a foreign private accreditation agency that has an accreditation process and standards substantially equivalent to that of ACAOM, and that is recognized for that purpose by the appropriate government entity in that foreign country.

International educational programs attempting to meet the eligibility requirements under either A or B above must ALSO be deemed to have equivalency in total hours and distribution of hours as required by ACAOM standards at the time of application.

The applicant's education will be reviewed using the NCCAOM international education criterion above.


Graduates from an international academic educational institution must first apply to either the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) or the World Education Services (WES) for a course by course educational transcript evaluation. Foreign credentialing agencies do not "approve" foreign educational institutions but rather determine whether a school is recognized by a foreign governmental agency, such as a Ministry of Health or Ministry of Education.



- To apply to AACRAO applicants may download the Foreign Education Review Application (FERA) from the NCCAOM website (see “Educated Outside of the United States” found on the NCCAOM website under “Applicants”). A completed FERA application, an official transcript and diploma/degree along with the current FERA fee should be mailed to:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
International Educational Services
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 520
Washington, D.C. 20036-1135

For additional information please visit the AACRAO website at www.aacrao.org.

-  To apply to WES for a credential evaluation on-line, applicants should go to www.wes.org. Note that WES must receive the applicant’s documents as specified in the scroll-down menu at www.wes.org/required for the particular country where the applicant attained their degree/diploma. One evaluation will be sent to the applicant and the other to the U.S. organization indicated on the application. (Please request it is sent to the NCCAOM). WES typically completes its credential review within seven business days after receipt of the WES application and documents according to www.wes.org/required. In some cases, WES may have to contact a particular school abroad for verification of documents, and this may necessarily extend the length of the equivalency review.

To send documents to World Education Services please use the following addresses:

By Postal Mail:	By Express Courier
World Education Services	World Education Services
P. O. Box 5087	64 Beaver St. #146
Bowling Green Station	New York, NY 10004
New York, NY 10274-5087	USA
USA	

For additional information please visit the WES website at www.wes.org.

The foreign education review process typically takes 8 weeks to complete; however, the NCCAOM does not guarantee this time frame. Please wait until notification from AACRAO or WES that the foreign education review is complete before submitting the NCCAOM application packet to NCCAOM.



Supplemental Education for Certification; Internationally Educated – All International applicants applying for certification, who have earned degrees/diplomas in acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine but, who do not meet the ACAOM hourly requirements for biomedicine and/or communication/counseling/ethics/safety are allowed to take supplemental education at an ACAOM school or a U.S. College/University accredited by an agency which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or at a regionally accredited institution.

AOM supplemental hours and courses must be completed at an ACAOM accredited or ACAOM candidate school. The supplemental education may be obtained at more than one ACAOM accredited or ACAOM candidate school.

The supplemental education cannot exceed 660 hours. The supplemental education is subject to NCCAOM's Eligibility Committee approval. This policy applies to applicants denied certification eligibility based on insufficient course hours.