



Prolongation of Accreditation Policy

Owner: AOAC
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Date of Issue: 19 July 2021

Name of the Policy	Prolongation of Accreditation Policy
Policy Number	
Description of Policy	This policy describes the principles surrounding prolongations of accreditation expiry date for Osteopathy programs accredited by the AOAC.
Category	Accreditation
Audience	This policy applies to all education providers with an accredited osteopathy program and stakeholders
Status	Approved policy
Last Revised	25 June 2021
Next Review	25 June 2024

Endorsed by	AOAC Board	Date: 25 June 2021
Responsible Officer	Chair of the Accreditation Committee	
Author	Professional Officer	
Approved by	Dr Gopi McLeod PhD AOAC Board Chair	Date: 19 July 2021
Signed		

Related Documents	
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Key Definitions

Accreditation expiry date – the date the program ceases to be accredited.

Accreditation Standard – under the National Law for a health profession, means a standard used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that delivers the program of study, provide persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia.

Accredited program of study – means a program of study accredited under section 48 of *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) by an accreditation authority.

Approved accreditation standard – under the National Law an accreditation standard:

- a. Approved by a National Board under section 47(3); and
- b. Published on the Board’s website under section 47(6).

Approved program of study (APoS) – for a health profession or for endorsement of registration in a health profession, means an accredited program of study:

- a. Approved under section 49(1) by the National Board established for the health profession; and
- b. Included in the list published by the National Agency under section 49(5).

Education providers – means:

- a. a university; or
- b. a tertiary education institution, or another institution or organisation

Program of study – means a program of study provided by an education provider.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the conditions for granting a prolongation of a period of accreditation for an osteopathic education program of study.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) accredited and OsteoBA approved osteopathy education programs of study.

3. Policy statement

A prolongation of accreditation period must only be granted if AOAC continues to be satisfied that the AOAC accredited program of study and the OsteoBA approved program of study continues to meet an approved accreditation standard in accordance with Section 50 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) and delivery of the program is within the accreditation expiry date.

Prolongation Criteria

The request to prolong an accredited education program of study may be initiated by AOAC or the education provider.

Programs on superseded accreditation standards are not eligible for prolongation of the accreditation expiry date.

AOAC will manage requests for prolongation of the accreditation expiry date in accordance with this policy in a transparent, fair, and timely way.

Initiation of the prolongation of an accreditation expiry date must occur before the AOAC accredited and OsteoBA approved program of study reaches the accreditation expiry date.

AOAC will undertake a risk assessment of the program and provide advice to the Executive Officer regarding initiation for prolongation of the accreditation expiry date.

AOAC initiated prolongation request

AOAC must advise education providers of the need to prolong their program's accreditation expiry date to:

- align accreditation submissions with the introduction of new accreditation standards.

Education provider initiated prolongation request

AOAC may consider requests from education providers to prolong their accreditation expiry date if the following reasons can be substantiated:

- align accreditation of multiple programs to reduce cost and impost on staff,
- facilitate enrolment of students during the accreditation assessment process,
- facilitate enrolment of students awarded block credit into a program when the program has entered teach-out or transition e.g., enrolment of osteopaths into year 2 of an osteopathy program, or
- manage a significant university restructure, which disrupts expected timeframe for preparing the accreditation submission.

The Executive Officer makes a recommendation to the AOAC Board regarding the prolongation of the AOAC accredited and OsteoBA approved program of study's accreditation expiry date and advises the OsteoBA.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Accreditation Committee has responsibility for ensuring AOAC continues to be satisfied that the AOAC accredited and OsteoBA approved programs of study are being delivered against the approved accreditation standards and within the accreditation expiry date.

The AOAC Board is responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this policy through creation and maintenance of effective procedures provided in the National Accreditation Guidelines.