



Notice of Proposed Changes Relating to the Acupuncture Licensure Program

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

June 2019

The Acupuncture licensing program regulations are being updated as most of the regulations have not been updated since 1995. Several changes to references in the regulations, and continuing competency for renewal of a license have warranted updating of the regulations to include current names of organizations, standards for continuing competency, and general cleanup of outdated regulations.

1. What are the changes to the regulations?

Changes to the regulations include:

- Updating the name of the organization that certifies acupuncturists.
- Updating the name of one of the organizations that accredits acupuncture schools.
- Clarifying outdated regulations to conform with current regulatory standards.
- Repeal certain regulations that are no longer valid or needed.
- Update continuing competency requirements for renewal to include two avenues of meeting the requirements by either; current certification as an acupuncturist through the NCCAOM, or 15 continuing competency credits through the NCCAOM. The 15 hours must be Professional Development Activity (PDA) points earned solely in Core Competency activities.

Specific changes to the regulations are outlined below.

12 AAC 05.100. Application requirements

(b)(3)-

The changes to this section include clarification for the applicant that all license verifications required for an application for an acupuncture license must come directly from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has ever held a license.

Why is the change needed?

This change is needed because although the division requires the verifications of licensure to be sent directly from the issuing state or jurisdiction, it is not clear in the regulations and the applicant may submit the verification on their own behalf. This then causes the applicant to request verification to be *resubmitted directly by the state or jurisdiction*. This has caused some confusion for the applicants and time in processing the application.

(b)(4)-

This paragraph concerns the submission of either a certificate as a diplomate of acupuncture, or a letter verifying the applicant is qualified for a diplomate certificate.

What is changing in this paragraph?

The National Commission for Certification of Acupuncturists (NCCA) changed its name several years ago to the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). This change reflects the new name of the agency that certifies acupuncturists. The change also clarifies for the applicant that the certification must be as a diplomate of *acupuncture* as the NCCAOM issues several types of diplomate certificates.

12 AAC 05.110. Approved school of acupuncture.

This section is being updated to change the name of one of the acupuncture schools accrediting bodies. The new name is the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), and no longer the National Council of Acupuncture Schools and Colleges.

12 AAC 05.200(b)(3). License renewal.

The change to this section is repealing (b)(3), which states the applicant for renewal must submit proof of current certification as required by AS 08.06.040. However, current AS 08.06.040 does not refer to certification, but gives the department the ability to set continuing competency requirements in regulation. It has been confusing to licensees because the regulation does not specifically state what type of certification is required.

The continuing competency regulations under 12 AAC 05.210 are also being amended to clarify that the renewal applicant may either use current NCCAOM certification to renew, or complete 15 hours of approved continuing competency credits to satisfy the renewal requirements.

12 AAC 05.210(a). Continuing competency requirements.

This subsection is being changed to clarify the types of continuing competency that will be required to renew a license. The changes include allowing current NCCAOM certification as a diplomate of acupuncture as long as the licensee has been certified during the entire concluding licensing period, or the licensee may complete 15 Professional Development Activity (PDA) points earned solely in Core Competency activities in acupuncture from the NCCAOM.

If the licensee is chosen for audit under 12 AAC 05.230, the licensee must submit proof of the continuing competency they have completed during the concluding licensing period, by submitting either a copy of the certification or copies of the NCCAOM approved PDA certificates showing the points were in Core Competency activities.

12 AAC 05.210(c). Continuing competency requirements.

The subsection dealing with the definition of contact hours is being repealed. This subsection is no longer needed because the continuing competency requirements are being updated as noted under the previous section.

12 AAC 05.220. Approved continuing competency activities.

This section is being repealed and readopted. The reason for this is due to the changes in 12 AAC 05.210. This will simplify the continuing competency requirements for the licensee.

12 AAC 05.230. Audit of continuing competency requirements.

This section is being updated by repealing and readopting the current language. The centralized regulations under 12 AAC 02.960 outlines audit of continuing competency. This section addressed the same requirements that are located under the centralized regulations. Therefore, the changes simplify the regulations by citing the centralized regulations instead of restating the regulations.

One change to this of note, the licensee will now be required to maintain records of continuing competency for four years instead of three years.

12 AAC 05.990. Definitions.

The changes to this section are repealing the meaning of “NCCA” as the organization is no longer in effect, and no longer referenced in statutes or regulations.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.