



COLLEGE & ASSOCIATION OF
Acupuncturists
OF ALBERTA

May 26, 2020

Notice to October 2020 Exam Applicants: Interim changes to application process due to COVID-19

Dear Students and Applicants,

As you are aware, on March 17, 2020, Alberta Government declared a public health emergency state and all schools are required to close. Alberta Government has gradually begun to lift restrictions observing that the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be sufficiently mitigated if public health measures and guidelines are followed. Despite the fact that Alberta is gradually re-opening, the CAAA recognizes that many services remain closed and schools look to virtual/online classes to provide services. As such, some students and applicants may not be able to obtain the required documents or complete their clinical training before the July 15, 2020 examinations application deadline. In response, the Exam Committee approved the following interim changes to the exam application process. The purpose of these changes is to ensure that CAAA can continue to process applications, allow applicants to write the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations and complete the examination process during this time of uncertainty.

Note: Interim change applies to examination application process ONLY. The original documents and clinical training hours will be required for registration. The CAAA is actively monitoring the situation and implementing measures to address these unprecedented circumstances.

Interim changes to the required documents:

- **Diploma or certificate:** The CAAA will accept on a temporary basis an email confirmation of program completion. The confirmation must be submitted to CAAA directly from the program director or coordinator. If the language is not in English or French a translated copy is required.
- **Transcript:** The CAAA will accept on a temporary basis an electronic transcript submitted directly from the program director or coordinator. If the language is not in English or French a translated copy is required.

- Passport-sized photo: CAAA will accept an electronic copy of a government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver's licence, passport) instead. The photo ID must have been issued within the last five years.
- Character Declaration Forms: Applicant may submit the forms electronically.

Interim changes to the clinical training hours requirements:

- The CAAA will grant **provisional approval** to write the October 2020 Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations to all students whose clinical training is delayed because of COVID-19, provided that:
 - the candidate's application for the Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations meets all other requirements;
 - the CAAA receives confirmation from the program director or coordinator that the candidate meets all the requirements for graduation with the exception of the supervised clinical training; and
 - the student is in the process of completing the clinical training requirement.
- The purpose of this provisional exemption is to allow students whose clinical training is delayed because of COVID-19 to write the **Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examinations in October 2020 only**.
- The exemption does not apply to the clinical training requirement which is required to become a registered member of CAAA.
- **Applicants will be required to meet the 500 hours of clinical training requirement for the registration process** as described in section 2(1)(c)(i) of Acupuncture Regulation, "within the 2 years immediately preceding the date of application carried out the practice of acupuncture for at least 500 hours".

Interim changes to the prohibition of online courses:

- The CAAA will recognize, on an interim basis, online **didactic courses** (For example, schools can provide online interactive teaching classes which permit the teacher to teach the students the curriculum.) offered during the pandemic as equivalent to classroom **theoretical instruction**.
- All clinical training must be provided in person. Online clinical training will NOT be accepted.

If you have any questions please contact the CAAA office at (780) 466-7787 or via email at jenneyw@acupuncturealberta.ca.