

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Publication of Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) Accreditation Status

TO: Deans and Presidents of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Directors of Optometric Residencies at the Schools and College of Optometry; Directors of Optometric Technician Programs; Supervisors of Optometric Residencies

FROM: G. Timothy Petito, O.D., ACOE Chair

DIST: ACOE, Ms. Puljak, Ms. Wirth, Ms. Mohr, Ms. Martin

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance related to programs' publication of ACOE accreditation status.

Beginning with the 2023 Annual Report submissions, programs were requested to provide the URL(s) to any public disclosures of ACOE accreditation status. ACOE Policy specifies that when accreditation status is published, the status must be stated correctly and include the name of the ACOE and its contact information.

The Council reminds schools and colleges of optometry, optometric residency programs, and optometric technician programs that these disclosures must:

- Specify that the ACOE is the accrediting body
- Include contact information for the ACOE. Any of the following are acceptable:
 - Email address: accredit@theacoe.org
 - Physical address: 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63141
 - Website: www.theACOE.org
 - Phone number: 800.365.2219
- Provide accurate information regarding the accreditation status of the program.
 - When an affiliate references the accreditation status of affiliated residency programs' accreditation status, it must be accurate for each residency program
 - References must not imply accreditation is a certainty over full eight years (e.g., statements like "program is accredited through 2026" are not appropriate); it is acceptable to publish the date of the next scheduled visit
 - Programs should avoid references that might imply degrees of accreditation exist. Accreditation is binary – a program is either accredited or not; references such as "fully accredited" should be avoided

I hope that you find this clarification to be useful. If you have any additional questions, comments, or suggestions for the ACOE, please contact accredit@theacoe.org.

For more information regarding policies related to the accreditation of programs, please review the [ACOE Policy & Procedure Manual](#) available at www.theACOE.org.