



MEMORANDUM

TO: CNME communities of interest/stakeholders and the general public
FROM: Joni Olehausen, ND, President, CNME Board of Directors
RE: Call for public comment on CNME draft revised accreditation standards
DATE: July 28, 2023

The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) is seeking public comment on several draft revisions to its accreditation standards.

Background

In accordance with a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education that recognized accrediting agencies engage in a periodic comprehensive review of their accreditation standards, the CNME initiated a review of its standards in August of 2022. At that time, we requested our communities of interest (including Canadian and U.S. ND programs; ND practitioner, student and school associations; ND licensing and regulatory boards; ND licensing exam organizations; institutional accrediting agencies; and other potentially interested parties) to provide feedback on the current standards, including suggestions for how they might be improved.

Based on the feedback we received and on subsequent discussions at Council meetings, the CNME Standards Review Taskforce drafted a set of revised accreditation standards that were approved by the CNME Board of Directors at its May 2023 meeting for circulation for public comment.

Comment Process

Organizations and individuals interested in submitting comments on the draft revised accreditation standards may do so either (i) online, by accessing the CNME website, www.CNME.org; or (ii) via email to: standardsreview@cnme.org.

The public comment page on the CNME website contains the following: (i) a copy of the draft revised CNME accreditation standards, (ii) a copy of this memo, and (iii) a textbox for submitting comments. Documents may be downloaded for ease of review.

Please note the following:

- There are only draft revisions under accreditation standards II and VI; additionally, two draft definitions have been added to the glossary. However, you are welcome to suggest changes, additions and/or deletions to any of the CNME accreditation and standards.
- If you suggest any further changes or additions to the standards, it is helpful to provide specific wording for the Council to consider.
- If you wish to know more about the policies and procedures of the CNME, please refer to the CNME Handbook of Accreditation, downloadable from our website.

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION



P.O. Box 178, Great Barrington, MA 01230 | 413.528.8877 | 413.528.8880 FAX

Where possible, please organize your comments with headings identifying by name or number the specific standard(s) or section(s) to which the comments apply. We also welcome any general comments you might have with respect to the Council's standards, policies, and procedures.

Note that the comment period runs from August 1, 2023, through September 8, 2023.

The CNME Board of Directors will review comments during the Council meeting scheduled for October 12-13, 2023. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the CNME Executive Director, Daniel Seitz; he can be reached by phone at 413-528-8877, or by email at danseitz@cnme.org.

The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education is a not-for-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a programmatic accreditor for four-year, residential doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine in the U.S. and Canada.

We look forward to receiving your comments. Thank you for your participation in this important endeavor.