

Accreditation Outcomes

An accreditation review results in one of the following decisions: four-year accreditation, two-year accreditation, failure to be accredited or withdrawal of accreditation.

FOUR-YEAR ACCREDITATION

To attain a four-year designation, the combined results of the self study and visitation must provide evidence that the program has achieved the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association's appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in athletic therapy.

Fairness requires that institutions that attain four-year accreditation should be reassessed less frequently.

TWO-YEAR ACCREDITATION

To attain the two-year designation, the combined results of the self study and visitation must provide evidence that the program has not fully achieved the standards of quality for four-year accreditation for educational programs in athletic therapy but the program has demonstrated significant potential to do so in the near future.

This status must be of a short-term nature. Nor is it acceptable as a recurrent best-case scenario in terms of institutional goals.

If, in the opinion of the Program Accreditation Committee (PAC), the institution is progressing towards four-year accreditation status but needs additional time to complete this progress the PAC may award a one-time additional year of accreditation. In this case, there must be a written request from the program director to the PAC Chair that indicates the need for the extension and demonstrates the growth that has occurred within the program.

Before recommending a two-year accreditation to the Association, the PAC provides the post-secondary institution with an opportunity to request reconsideration of the recommendation. Reconsideration by the PAC is based on conditions existing when the PAC arrived at its recommendation to the Association and on subsequent documented evidence or corrected deficiencies provided by the applicant.

FAILURE TO BE ACCREDITED

This designation is imposed when the program self study and visitation results are such that the program does not achieve the appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in athletic therapy and does not show potential to do so.

WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION

This designation may be:

- requested by an institution; or
- imposed on a continuing program that fails to achieve the minimum standard upon completion of the re-accreditation process; or
- imposed on an institution that fails to achieve a four-year accreditation status following receipt of three consecutive two-year accreditation designations.

Before recommending to the Association that accreditation be withheld or withdrawn, the PAC provides the sponsoring institution with an opportunity to request reconsideration. A copy of the CATA Appeal Process for Withheld or Withdrawn Accreditation Status accompanies the letter notifying the sponsoring institutions of one of these actions.

When accreditation is withdrawn, the institutional sponsor's official representative is provided with the following information:

- a clear statement of each deficiency in the program's relative compliance with the Association program minimum standard; and
- notification that application for accreditation as a new applicant may be made whenever the program considers itself to be in compliance with the standards.

STUDENT STATUS

All students who have successfully completed a program that was granted any accreditation status at any point during their enrolment are regarded as graduates of the Association accredited program.

INACTIVE PROGRAMS

The post-secondary institution may request inactive status for a program that does not enrol students for up to two years. The program and the post-secondary institution must continue to pay required annual fees.

Should a program be inactive for two years and not be reactivated, it is considered discontinued and accreditation is withdrawn.