



Accreditation Policy

1. Purpose

The Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM) is committed to providing a Training, Education and Assessment Program which enables candidates to achieve expected standards of knowledge, skills, expertise and judiciousness of the profession.

2. Application

This Policy applies to ACPSEM registrars, experienced professionals, staff, volunteers (including Board, Committee, and Panel members), and universities and clinical departments seeking accreditation.

3. Context

The ACPSEM administers a Training, Education and Assessment Program (TEAP) in three disciplines:

- Radiation Oncology Medical Physics (ROMP);
- Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physics (DIMP), specialising in Nuclear Medicine Physics or Radiology Medical Physics or both; and
- Radiopharmaceutical Science (RPS).

The ACPSEM accredits university courses that provide education in Medical Physics and clinical departments that provide training in Medical Physics, However the ACPSEM does not currently accredit university courses in Radiopharmaceutical Science (RPS).

Two key components of the TEAP are:

- an ACPSEM accredited postgraduate degree; and
- a period of competency-based training at an ACPSEM accredited clinical department.

4. Definitions

Accredited Postgraduate Degree: recognition that graduates are educated to a postgraduate level suitable for the entry into clinical training in Medical Physics or Radiopharmaceutical Science.

Accredited Training Institution: a clinical department authorised by ACPSEM to provide training to registrars as part of a TEAP.

Assessed Post Graduate Degree Equivalence (RPS): recognition that ACPSEM does not currently accredit university post graduate degrees in Radiopharmaceutical Science.

Registrar: trainee or person registered in the Training, Education and Assessment Program administered by ACPSEM.

5. Requirements

It is a requirement of the TEAP that the postgraduate degree and clinical training components of the Program have been completed at institutions accredited by ACPSEM.

ACPSEM publishes a list of currently accredited universities and clinical departments on its [website](#).



5.1. Postgraduate Degree

A compulsory component of a physicist's education and training to become a qualified Medical Physics specialist accredited in a particular specialty area is the acquisition of an appropriate postgraduate degree in Medical Physics or Radiopharmaceutical Science. The profession and universities collaborate to enable universities to provide this invaluable component of postgraduate education.

The ACPSEM accredits the postgraduate courses of study to ensure their suitability in preparing Medical Physicists with the necessary depth and breadth of knowledge required to commence clinical training. Candidates embarking on a career in Medical Physics should ensure that they enrol in an accredited course of study, while universities interested in attracting such students should make it a high priority to meet the needs of the Medical Physics and Radiopharmaceutical Science profession.

The ACPSEM assesses Post Graduate Degree Equivalence for Radiopharmaceutical Science. Candidates embarking on a career in Radiopharmaceutical Science should consult Appendix A to the [Program Admission Policy](#) regarding the applicable alternate assessment of prerequisite post graduate degrees.

5.2. Clinical Training

A compulsory component of education and training for these professions is received in the clinical environment of a hospital department. Such departments must be accredited by the ACPSEM.

The ACPSEM accredits clinical departments or a network of clinical departments to ensure their suitability in preparing Medical Physics and Radiopharmaceutical Science registrars with the required depth and breadth of knowledge in their specialty. Where an entire program is not available in a single facility, accreditation may be granted provided the institution has a satisfactory method by which the required in-service clinical training can be achieved at another accredited facility and support by that facility/ies is demonstrated in the accreditation process. Departments can also form networks under contracted agreement with other departments or institutions, whereby the full spectrum of training can be delivered.

6. Accountability

The ACPSEM Board has delegated accountability and responsibility for all university and departmental accreditation decisions, rules and procedural matters (accreditation decisions) to the PSB.

As a consequence of the 2018 "Refreshing Professional Standards" Project the ACPSEM Board also requires that accreditation decisions are made by the PSB independent of Certification Panels and based on consideration of the recommendations of ACPSEM staff.

7. Appeals

If a university or clinical department is unhappy with a decision made under this Policy, they may submit an appeal using ACPSEM's [Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy](#). This appeal process is the final avenue of appeal succeeding other mediation processes outlined in Section 6 of the Accreditation Procedure.

If a registrar is not satisfied with a decision made under this Policy, they may submit an appeal in accordance with ACPSEM's *Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy*.



8. References

8.1. Related Documentation

- [Accreditation Procedure](#)
- [Certification Policy](#)
- [Certification Procedure](#)
- [Program Admission Policy](#)
- [Program Admission Procedure](#)
- [TEAP Program Enrolment Policy](#)
- [TEAP Program Enrolment Procedure](#)
- [TEAP Progression and Completion Policy](#)
- Program Progression and Completion Procedure
- [Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy](#)
- [Registration Requirements Policy](#)

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