## TOPIC: rECOMMENDation FOR renewal of full authorization for COLORADO SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends the renewal of Full Authorization for the Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine pursuant to the Degree Authorization Act (§23-2-101 C.R.S.).

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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

The DAA outlines the Department’s jurisdiction over private education programs available to the residents of the state of Colorado. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. A private college or university that has full authorization “shall apply for renewal of authorization in accordance with the schedule for institutional reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer.”

Full Authorization is awarded to institutions which are institutionally accredited by an institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has had a successful on-site review of its Colorado location(s). These institutions are subject to the deceptive trade practice provisions in §23-2-104, C.R.S.

Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine is a private, for-profit college and has been operating in Colorado since 1990. The College has been accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) since 2000. The college currently offers a Master of Acupuncture, Master of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization and recently added a Doctor of Acupuncture and a Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization; the latter two programs just began in February of 2023 and the College is in the process of seeking ACHCM pre-accreditation/accreditation for the programs. Through its self-reporting, the College reported 94 students for Calendar Year 2022.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J, the accreditation cycle triggers the renewal of authorization for institutions that are awarded Full Authorization by the CCHE. Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine received a renewal of accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine in 2023. The College will host the accrediting team again in August for a progress report visit and then the next renewal of accreditation visit is scheduled for February 2030. Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine has held continuous accreditation from ACAHM since 2000 with a renewal occurring every seven (7) years. ACAHM accreditation assures quality by verifying that an institution meets accreditation criteria. All ACAHM institutions are required to submit data annually in their institution update, undergo annual monitoring of financial and non-financial indicators, and adhere to ACAHM policies and practices.

With the renewal of accreditation by ACAHM, Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine applied to the Department in March 2023 for renewal of Full Authorization in accordance with the CCHE policy, Section I, Part J.

In addition to renewing and maintaining its accreditation, Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine continues to meet and comply with all requirements for authorization to operate in Colorado. In a review of the Department’s student complaint database, Staff is currently working with a student who has submitted a complaint. Since its last renewal of authorization, the student complaint database shows two complaints submitted against the college in the past seven years.

Upon review of the ACAHM reaffirmation letter and the College’s continued compliance, Department staff recommend Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine for the renewal of Full Authorization.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of Full Authorization for Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5) A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [§23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).