



Accreditation Commission for Homeopathic Education in North America Annual Report – 2023

Background

The Accreditation Commission for Homeopathic Education in North America (ACHENA) promotes excellence in the education of professional homeopaths by establishing educational standards, accrediting schools that prepare students for certification by the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC,) and certifying continuing education programs for professional homeopaths. ACHENA’s work provides schools with benchmarks for excellence and tools for continuous improvement. It provides students who choose an accredited school with an assurance of the quality of the education they will receive, protections against false advertising, protections against unfair grading and other forms of discrimination. ACHENA’s work serves the community as a whole by promoting the availability of high-quality homeopathic services to promote wellness and address today’s health challenges. ACHENA has been doing this work since 1982. ACHENA currently recognizes seven accredited schools. In 2023, one additional school achieved the status of candidate for accreditation.

Organizational Development

ACHENA is an independent, non-profit organization run by a board of directors who are referred to as commissioners. Commissioners are homeopathy educators, representatives from accredited schools, professional practitioners, students of homeopathy and members of the general community. In 2023, ACHENA added four new commissioners, bringing the board to a total of eight individuals. ACHENA employs three part-time staff: an Executive Director, an Office Manager and Financial Operations Administrator. ACHENA is also fortunate to have a panel of volunteer advisors who have expertise in accreditation, homeopathic education and/or higher education. Information about ACHENA commissioners, advisors and staff is available on our website at this [link](#).

ACHENA does its work through committees. Standing committees include: Executive Committee (comprised of ACHENA officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary); Standards Committee; Continuing Education Committee; Finance Committee; and, Nominations and

Outreach Committee. ACHENA also has a work group dedicated to exploring how ACHENA can achieve US Department of Education recognition as an accrediting agency.

In 2023, ACHENA developed a brief video to describe how it contributes to the advancement of Homeopathy. The video is available for view at this [link](#).

If you are interested in supporting ACHENA’s mission, the organization has rolling applications for positions as commissioner, accreditation site visit peer reviewer, advisor and other volunteers. For more information, please email executive-director@achena.org.

Updating Accreditation Standards

ACHENA continually works to ensure its accreditation standards are up to date and community-accepted. ACHENA accreditation standards are established to promote high quality education of professional practitioners of classical Homeopathy. Standards address 14 topic areas related to school functioning as outlined in the table on the right. These standards are found in ACHENA’s [Eligibility and Accreditation Manual](#).

Accreditation Standard 8 outlines the Program of Study that guides schools in their didactic, clinical observation and clinical practice efforts to prepare students for professional practice. In 2023, ACHENA engaged in a process to update *Standard 8: Program of Study* to align with the October 2022 release of the updated [Educational Standards and Practice Competencies for the Professional Practitioner of Homeopathy in North America](#) (S&C).

ACHENA’s Standards Committee engaged in a series of meetings with accredited school representatives to prepare an updated draft of *Standard 8: Program of Study* for broad community public comment. A Public Comment Period to solicit comments from homeopathy organizations, practitioners and the general public began August 13 and concluded October 21, 2023. Information about the opportunity for public comment was made widely available on multiple occasions through ACHENA’s mass email communications and announcements at community meetings. ACHENA carefully deliberated on the comments provided and on December 8, 2023, issued its [Summary of Comments and Deliberations](#) and [updated Standard 8 – Program of Study](#).

The Standards Committee continually monitors new developments in the field of Homeopathy and trends in higher education policy. Topics currently under review include Final Regulations issued on May 9, 2023, by the Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education pertaining to [Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment](#).

ACHENA Standards Address:

1. School mission
2. Legal Authorization
3. Governance
4. Administration
5. Record Keeping
6. Admissions
7. Student Assessment
8. Program of Study
9. Faculty Qualification
10. Student Services
11. Infrastructure
12. Financial Resources
13. Publications/ Advertising
14. Library/ Learning Resources

Continuing Professional Development (CPD Program)

ACHENA's CPD Program reviews and approves advanced education and training courses tailored for professional practitioners, *beyond* their 1,000-hour certification training. A well-functioning CPD program is critical to the advancement of professional homeopathic practitioners. In response to community feedback, and to better align with CHC continuing education policy,

In 2023, ACHENA approved 51 continuing education programs. The list of approved programs is available on the ACHENA website at this [link](#).

ACHENA's CPD program now refers to levels of courses, rather than categories of courses.

- Level One courses aim to help practitioners address gaps in practice, fine tune skills and master advanced topics, *beyond the fundamental standards* outlined in the ACHENA Eligibility and Accreditation Manual (see: *Standard 8 for the Professional Homeopathic Practitioner Program of Study*).
- Level Two courses aim to build personal capacity for successful practice including topics that address ethical practice and management, communication skills and/or exposure to new ideas in the field.
- Level Three courses aim to reinforce and integrate learning included in the Professional Homeopathic Practitioner Program of Study.

In 2023, ACHENA updated its CPD Program Service Agreement Policies to promote efficient and timely review of applications from providers of continuing education for professional homeopaths. The new policies ensure that review of standard CPD applications for approval are completed within 45 days. ACHENA also introduced a new Fast Track process where, for an additional fee, an application will receive an initial review within seven days.

ACHENA introduced a new Approved Provider component to the CPD program that authorizes high volume CPD providers to more easily manage a large portfolio of continuing education programs.

On October 26, 2023, ACHENA hosted a webinar to review these updates to our CPD Program and create opportunities for dialogue with CPD providers. An archive of the program is available at [this link](#).

Challenges and Opportunities

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a 100% remote approach for homeopathy schools and programs, whether accredited, non-accredited, domestic or international. While fully remote training programs offer important advantages with regard to increasing student access, they also present a number of challenges including:

- Ensuring the quality of virtual instructional programs, both live and pre-recorded
- Ensuring the quality of clinical training, including tracking student participation
- Prospective students being unable to accurately assess what a school is offering

- The potential for creating an unfair playing field for certain school that do not adhere to community-accepted standards
- Ensuring the quality of clinical training when it is offered through a 100% remote program
- Non-accredited international schools offering training that is not rooted in the specific legal and scope of practice conditions specific to North America.

In the US, schools that offer post-secondary education (such as programs that train professional homeopaths) are required to obtain authorization from the appropriate state or local authority. To become authorized, a school must typically: 1) pay certain fees; 2) follow established guidelines to ensure fairness, integrity and protection of student rights; and 3) as a legally authorized entity, pay its fair share of taxes on its revenue.

A required element of ACHENA accreditation is that a school must obtain legal authorization to offer its educational program. When non-accredited international or domestic schools promote their programs to North American students, potential harm occurs to both students and the homeopathic profession. Prospective students are not ensured that they will be prepared for practice in North America, and it is impossible for them to assess whether the school's operations are aligned with community-accepted standards of fairness, quality and transparency.

Non-accredited schools also have an unfair financial advantage in that they are most often operating without appropriate legal authorization, not paying the expenses associated with being authorized, not paying taxes on revenue and not paying fees associated with accreditation. This places the accredited schools—those doing the right thing—at a competitive disadvantage financially. Most importantly, non-accredited schools may not follow the standards to ensure high quality clinical training for their students.

The policies of **North America's credentialing bodies** and **professional associations** should be fully aligned in their expectation that schools offering professional homeopathic training programs should have appropriate authorization in North America, as well as be an accredited school. International and domestic schools each have a path to accreditation through ACHENA, if they are willing to take steps to become legally authorized, as well as work toward meeting ACHENA's comprehensive, community-accepted standards.

Aligning our community policies and values with school accreditation will have the important impact of raising the bar on education, providing students with transparency and clarity when choosing a program, and assuring the general community of the quality of homeopathic services. These are essential steps for promoting Homeopathy as a valid science and art, and for Homeopathy taking its rightful place in the health care landscape of North America.

ACHENA welcomes community discussion around these important challenges. If you would like to learn more about these issues or host a discussion, please reach out to executive-director@achena.org.

ACHENA
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Clearly Better Business Checking	29,295.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$29,295.00
Accounts Receivable	6,473.24
Total Accounts Receivable	\$6,473.24
Other Current Assets	
Payments to deposit	
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$35,768.24
TOTAL ASSETS	\$35,768.24
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$0
Equity	
Opening balance equity	\$19,668.99
Retained Earnings	\$11,372.08
Net Revenue	\$4,727.17
Total Equity	\$35,768.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$35,768.24

ACHENA
Statement of Financial Activity
January - December 2023

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Revenue	\$0
Services	\$500.00
Annual Dues	\$19,122.86
CPD	\$11,371.49
Total Services	\$30,994.35
Total Revenue	\$30,994.35
GROSS PROFIT	\$30,994.35
Expenditures	
Conferences	
Admission/Booth	\$1,150.00
Printing Expense	\$428.94
Shipping Expense	\$49.96
Travel	1,948.82
Total Conferences	\$3,577.72
Contract & professional fees	
Accounting fees	\$600.00
ACHENA contractors	\$12,225.00
Professional Dues	\$4,756.00
Total Contract & professional fees	\$17,581.00
Insurance	\$1,700.76
Office expenses	
Admin fees technology	\$2,533.45
Bank fees & service charges	\$0.99
Corporate Filing Fee	\$174.00
Office Expenses - Other	\$275.00
Office supplies	\$14.72
Total Office expenses	\$2,998.16
QuickBooks Payments Fees	\$409.54
Total Expenditures	\$26,267.18
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,727.17
NET REVENUE	\$4,727.17