



What is Accreditation? Week 1: An Overview of the Process

The CSM Medical School accreditation is 11 weeks away. As the Faculty Undergraduate Accreditation Lead (FUAL) I will be providing weekly updates and answering questions until the “big day”.

Every eight years the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) reviews each Canadian medical school to ensure the medical education standards are met. 2024 is our turn, and we have been preparing for this for the past two years.

The accreditation team will carry out a two-part accreditation beginning with a virtual three-day visit on October 21-23 and an in-person site visit on December 2 & 3.

There are 12 accreditation “Standards” that will be reviewed in detail during the visit. The CACMS team will review the documents that we have compiled, which include the Data Collection Instrument (DCI), Medical School Self-Study (MSS), and the Independent Student Analysis (ISA).

The 12 Standards include information regarding governance, finances, policies, EDI and Indigenous engagement, admissions, curriculum development and evaluation, student assessment, student support, as well as advice and mentorship regarding residency applications. There are 94 specific *Elements* that are explored in detail and information regarding these elements can be found on our accreditation website. <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/about/ume-accreditation>

If you would like to read more about accreditation and the process itself, please visit the CACMS website, <https://cacms-cafmc.ca> or feel free to email me with any questions.

Next week I’ll focus on student support which will include the SAW Hub as well as support that could be tapped into elsewhere. I would also like to answer any questions that you may have regarding accreditation, and you could submit your questions through the anonymous link <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7KAJxuOIMUaWhhkigL2RUZN0i06lk0tKreCUNDQbWeNUNkNEVDgzWFMzNIZJQk1HUUIXQTO3OTdZTS4u>. Your questions will likely be areas of curiosity for your classmates so please be generous in submitting any questions regarding accreditation that you may have. I’ll plan to answer all the questions submitted in next week’s message.

Thank you
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[Accreditation Website](#)

[CACMS Website](#)

[Submit questions anonymously](#)

[Email Dr. Mintz](#)
