



What are the model standards and procedures?

The FACEM Training Program must be delivered at ACEM accredited training sites in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Training site accreditation is currently completed in line with the ACEM Accreditation Requirements.

As part of national reforms to strengthen transparency, consistency and collaboration in medical education, ACEM is working with the Australian Medical Council (AMC), Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa (Medical Council of New Zealand), health departments and other specialist medical colleges to implement revised accreditation standards and procedures for training settings over the coming years.

ACEM aims to fully implement model standards and procedures by February 2027.

Read more about model standards and procedures [here](#).

Why is this changing?

Model standards and procedures are being introduced to:

- Develop a consistent accreditation approach across all specialist medical colleges
- Create greater transparency regarding expectations around accreditation
- Foster collaboration between specialist medical colleges and health services
- Facilitate better data and reporting about accreditation

What has ACEM done to date?

The Accreditation Model Standards Working Group (AMS WG) has been established to guide the implementation of the AMC model accreditation standards and procedures within the College. Its responsibilities include overseeing incorporation of the model standards into the College's accreditation framework, developing College-specific requirements to ensure standards align with the College's training and accreditation needs, and supporting progress through the College's governance processes. The group meets regularly to ensure project milestones are met.

What will ACEM do next?

Strengthening procedural fairness

Existing principles of procedural fairness for sites will be strengthened within revised accreditation processes. Sites will have the opportunity to respond to a draft accreditation decision before it has been finalised. This will include:

- The ability to submit factual corrections;
- The option to provide additional, directly relevant evidence that may impact an accreditation decision; and
- The opportunity to engage in discussion with the inspection panel.

This process will be trialled from November 2025 with full implementation from February 2026.

Adopting risk-based accreditation decision-making

A risk-based framework for making accreditation decisions will be adopted from February 2026. It involves the use of a matrix and supporting tools to address the relative severity of a risk that may arise if standards are not met. This approach will ensure alignment in the methods of monitoring activities being adopted by other colleges, and guarantee fairness and proportionality in accreditation decisions.

Adopting common terminology

Terminology to describe accreditation decisions will be revised to standardise terminology used by all colleges from February 2026. Accreditation decisions will soon follow a three-tiered structure outlining a site's attainment of accreditation standards as being met, substantially met, or not met. This shift will provide greater consistency on how standards are assessed.

Developing college-specific requirements

College-specific requirements (CSRs) are requirements unique to a college or specialty that are not adequately captured within the model standards. An extended process of internal and external consultation must be undertaken during CSR development before CSRs can be embedded into the model standards. The AMS WG is actively considering ACEM CSRs with the aim of having these approved and published by February 2026.

Contact

The College will continue to provide regular updates to sites and their stakeholders as this project progresses. For further information, please visit the ACEM website [here](#) or contact Michael Mihatsch – Project Lead, Accreditation at michael.mihatsch@acem.org.au.