

CMTCA Decision-Making Framework for the Accreditation Standards for Massage Therapy Education Programs in Canada (2024)

The CMTCA decision-making framework provides the necessary parameters to determine accreditation decisions. It is used to determine both Preliminary Accreditation results and site visit results.

The framework combines quantitative and qualitative data to reflect the full breadth and scope of a massage therapy education program. The qualitative component includes comments and recommendations which surveyors submit after either reviewing evidence submitted for a Preliminary Accreditation or after a site visit. The quantitative component is the summation of the ratings provided by surveyors for either a Preliminary Accreditation or a site visit.

The decision-making framework specifies that accreditation decisions are determined based on two factors:

- A. **Standard 1:** Given the high impact of standard 1- Curriculum Content criteria on the quality of massage therapy education programs, the ratings for standard 1 are considered paramount and programs must meet or partially meet all criteria in standard 1 to be granted Preliminary Accreditation, or to be accredited following a site visit.
- B. **Points achieved:** Each rating (met, partially met, and unmet) is assigned a point value, and the total points are calculated:
 - i. Four points are awarded for each criterion that is met
 - ii. Two points are awarded for each criterion that is partially met.
 - iii. No points are awarded for unmet criteria.

There are 107 criteria with a combined maximum of 428 points available.

The point thresholds and other criteria required for each decision length are described in the tables below.



Preliminary Accreditation Decisions

Decision	Decision Criteria
Granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met or partially met. ✓ The total score is 321 points or higher.
Not Granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any unmet criteria in standard section 1 <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i> ✓ The total score is below 321 points

Accreditation Decisions

Decision	Decision Criteria	Visit type
Five-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met. ✓ The total score is 407 points or higher. ✓ The program has already participated in one CMTCA accreditation site visit (i.e., eligible on second site visit) 	In-person only
Three-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met. ✓ The total score is 364 points or higher. 	In-person or virtual
One-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met or partially met. ✓ The total score is 321 points or higher. 	In-person or virtual
Non-accredited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any unmet criteria in standard section 1 <li style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i> ✓ The total score is below 321 points 	In-person or virtual