



Federal Recognition by the U.S. Department of Education



The Accreditation Commission of the Consortium for Advanced Practice Providers received federal recognition from the U.S. Department of Education in 2022 for accrediting Nurse Practitioner (NP) postgraduate training programs. In 2024, the Commission's federally recognized scope was expanded to include Joint NP/PA postgraduate training programs.

The Accreditation Commission can accredit Physician Assistant/Physician Associate (PA)-only postgraduate training programs. However, accreditation of PA-only postgraduate training programs is **not currently included in the Commission's federally recognized scope with the U.S. Department of Education.**

Accreditation Fact Sheet



Eligibility:

Postgraduate NP, PA, and joint NP/PA residency and fellowship training programs located within the U.S. that provide a minimum of one year of structured, intensive training in the service delivery setting that supports the transition from academic preparation to clinical practice at the advanced level as a nurse practitioner and physician assistant/associate in primary care or specialty areas.

Length of review process:

Estimated time from submission of initial request to begin the process to accreditation decision is between six and eighteen months. The accreditation decision is rendered within six weeks of the site visit.

Type and duration of accreditation:

Initial Accreditation by the Consortium is awarded for up to three years. Renewal of Accreditation is awarded for up to five years.

Fee:

The total cost of accreditation fee is \$11,000, inclusive of travel/lodging of site visitor(s): \$1,000 application fee plus \$10,000 accreditation review fee. There may be additional fees if the program includes multiple specialty tracks that require additional travel or site visit time. The fee includes access to Consortium's expert staff throughout the process to answer questions and provide support. There is a separate fee structure for federal organizations.

What is involved in the accreditation review process?

Accreditation is a voluntary, peer-review process initiated at the request of a program.

The Consortium conducts a standards-based, comprehensive review of the candidate program.

Evidence considered includes: candidate program documentation (e.g.: application, self-study report, third party comments); site visit report; and any additional requested, relevant, or otherwise submitted information.

The decision for accreditation action is based upon the determination of the sufficiency of a program's adherence to the Consortium's standards.

The Consortium accreditation review process consists of six major steps:

- 1. Applicant submits a Notice of Intent to Apply via the Consortium website (opens communication between the applicant and the Consortium).**
- 2. Applicant submits Application with \$1,000 application fee.**
- 3. Applicant submits self-study report. The report is reviewed by Consortium staff and site visitor team. The \$10,000 accreditation fee must be paid prior to site visit.**
- 4. The Site Visit is scheduled; site visit lasts 1.5 days; site visitor(s)'s report is reviewed and submitted to the Consortium Accreditation Commission.**
- 5. The Consortium Accreditation Commission considers relevant documentation and renders a decision on the accreditation action.**
- 6. Applicant is informed of the Consortium Accreditation Commission's decision within one week; decision is posted on the Consortium website and the Department of Education is notified.**

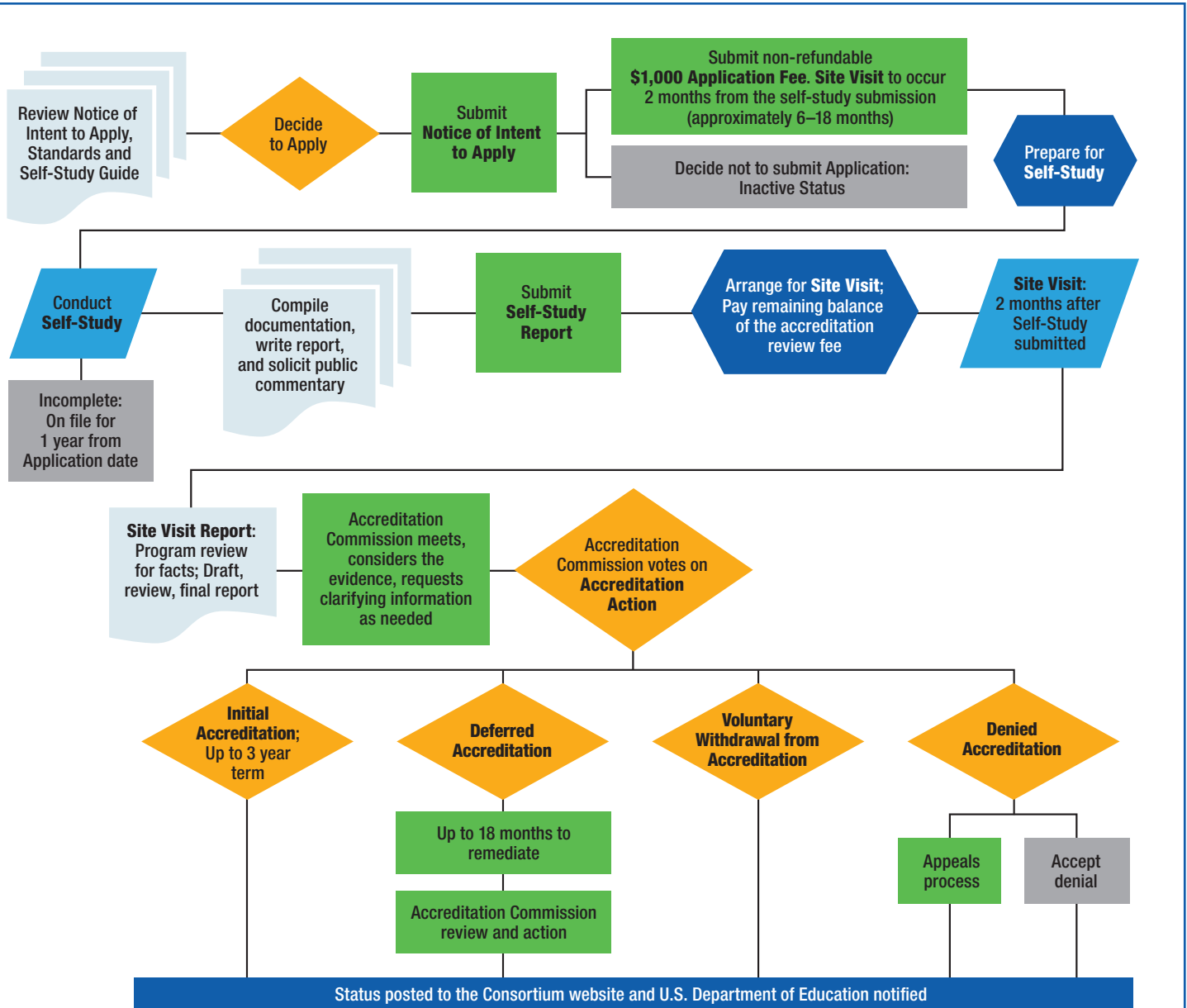
The Consortium Seal of Approval:

Programs that receive accreditation are authorized to use the Consortium's Accreditation Seal of Approval, in a manner consistent with the Consortium's policies and procedures, as an indication of Consortium accreditation when referencing their program.

Revised 06/19/26



Accreditation Process



Revised 06/19/26