

CMTCA Decision Making Framework

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.
 - iv. There is a maximum of 380 points available. 286 points are required to be granted Preliminary Accreditation, or to be accredited.

If the decision criteria for standard 1 and the required points are not achieved, the program receives a non-accredited decision in the case of site visits, or not granted in the case of Preliminary Accreditation.

Site visit accreditation decisions are conferred for five years, three years, or one year from the date of the accreditation decision. Programs must meet higher point thresholds to receive a three or five-year accreditation decision.

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



Accreditation Decision

Accreditation Decision	Decision Criteria	Review type
Five-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met. ✓ The total score is 361 points or higher. ✓ The program has already completed one CMTCA accreditation cycle (i.e., eligible on second site visit) ✓ See footnote ¹ 	In-person or virtual site visit
Three-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met. ✓ The total score is 324 points or higher. ✓ See footnote ² 	In-person or virtual site visit
One-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met or partially met. ✓ The total score is 286 points or higher. ✓ An in-person site visit was completed, if required (See footnote ²) 	In-person or virtual site visit
Non-accredited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any unmet criteria in standard section 1 <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>Or</i> ✓ The total score is below 286 	In-person or virtual site visit

¹ Following a virtual site visit, the accreditation decision will be limited to a maximum three-year accreditation, regardless of the points achieved. See Virtual Site Visit Policy for more details.

² Programs must undergo an in-person site visit if:

- this is the first CMTCA site visit.
- the previous site visit resulted in a non-accreditation decision.
- the previous site visit was virtual, or
- the program wishes to be eligible for a 5-year accreditation decision.

Exceptions may be made, at CMTCA's discretion should a virtual review be required due to a public health order or other safety restrictions.

Preliminary Accreditation

The thresholds for Preliminary Accreditation are as follows:

Accreditation Decision	Decision Criteria	Review type
Granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met or partially met.✓ The total score is 286 point or higher.	Survey Team Review of Preliminary Accreditation Submission
Not Granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Any unmet criteria in standard section 1<i>Or</i>✓ The total score is below 286	Survey Team Review of Preliminary Accreditation Submission

Preliminary Accreditation is in effect from the date of the notification letter until the date the accreditation decision is issued following the site visit. The site visit can be scheduled three months after Preliminary Accreditation has been granted and must be completed within two years.

Note: If a program holding Preliminary Accreditation receives a non-accreditation decision following its first site visit, the Preliminary Accreditation status will not be revoked to allow the program to address recommendations for improvement and schedule a subsequent site visit.³

³ Programs must undergo an in-person site visit if:

- this is the first CMTCA site visit.
- the previous site visit resulted in a non-accreditation decision.
- the previous site visit was virtual, or
- the program wishes to be eligible for a 5-year accreditation decision.

Exceptions may be made, at CMTCA's discretion should a virtual review be required due to a public health order or other safety restrictions.