

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 is gathered through the site visit, as surveyors use the tracer methodology to assess the program. The quantitative component is the summation of the ratings provided by surveyors.

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

- A. **Standard 1:** Given the importance of and the high impact of standard 1 on the quality of massage therapy education programs, the ratings for standard 1 are considered separately. Standard section 1 addresses the education program’s curriculum.
- B. **Points achieved:** Each rating (met, partially met, and unmet) is assigned a point value and the percentage of total possible points is calculated. Four points are awarded for each criterion that is met. Two points are awarded for each criterion that is partially met. No points are awarded for unmet criteria. There are a maximum of 380 points available.

The thresholds for accreditation are as follows:

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 point or higher ✓ The program has already completed one CMTCA accreditation cycle (i.e., eligible on second site visit) 	Site review
Three-year accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All criteria in standard section 1 are met ✓ The total score is 324 point or higher 	Site review
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 point or higher 	Site review

Site visit accreditation decisions are in effect for five years, three years, or one year.



The thresholds for preliminary accreditation are as follows:

Accreditation Decision	Decision Criteria	Review type
Preliminary accreditation	<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	Surveyor 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 and must be completed within two years.