

Regulation of the Thai Traditional Medical Council
Pertaining to Criteria, Methods, and Conditions for Certifying Institutions
Offering Degrees or Certificates Equivalent to Degrees in Thai Traditional Medicine and
in Applied Thai Traditional Medicine
B.E. 2557 (2014)

In order to establish criteria, methods and conditions for certifying institutions offering degrees or certificate equivalent to degrees in Thai traditional medicine and in applied Thai traditional medicine under Section 12 (2) (*khor*), by virtue of Section 9 (3), Section 24 (4) (*tor*), and Section 30 of the Thai Traditional Medical Professions Act B.E. 2556 (2013), the Committee of the Thai Traditional Medical Council, with the approval of the Honorary President of the Thai Traditional Medical Council, hereby issues this regulation as follows:

Section 1. This regulation is called “The Regulation of the Thai Traditional Medical Council Pertaining to Criteria, Methods, and Conditions for Certifying Institutions Offering Degrees or Certificates Equivalent to Degrees in Thai Traditional Medicine and in Applied Thai Traditional Medicine B.E. 2557 (2014).”

Section 2. This regulation shall enter into effect as of the day after its publication in the Government Gazette.

Section 3. In this regulation:

“institution” means a state or private institution of higher education which has been established with the permission of the law;

“subcommittee” means the subcommittee on the practice of Thai traditional medicine or the subcommittee on the practice of applied Thai traditional medicine;

“Secretary General” means the Secretary General of the Thai Traditional Medical Council.

Title 1
Institutions

Part 1
Institutional Requirements

Section 4. An institution must meet the following requirements:

- (1) An institution granted permission to be established in accordance with the law;

(2) An institution must offer instruction of courses in general education at bachelor's degree level and must have an academic environment and a community of scholars in order to promote intellectual curiosity among the students;

(3) An institution must be able to provide instruction or must have a clearly-defined and feasible plan demonstrating such an ability at least one year prior to the start of classes for each incoming class of students, and the institution must have a clear operating plan covering a period of not less than five years; i.e. a faculty staffing plan, a support staff recruitment plan, a curriculum and educational media development plan, a building development plan, an audio-visual equipment procurement plan, a research development plan, a plan for cooperation with an escort institution, and a plan of cooperation with an affiliated hospital, etc.

(4) An institution must have a determination to produce graduates in Thai traditional medicine or graduates in applied Thai traditional medicine who possess knowledge, skills and other qualifications suited to the needs and health care services system of Thailand.

Section 5. Prior to the launch of its program and in the initial phases, an institution's administrators must visit other institutions already in the process of providing a program in Thai traditional medicine and a program in applied Thai traditional medicine in order to observe administrative guidelines, instructional management, faculty support and development in various areas, particularly relating to knowledge and skills in instruction and evaluation, as well as difficulties, and guidelines for preventing and addressing problems, so as to ensure that the launch of the new program is smooth and efficient.

Part 2

Administration

Section 6. An institution must have a responsible administrative body at not lower than the level of a university department to ensure that operations proceed according to the curriculum.

Section 7. The dean or head of the responsible body called by another name which is equal in status to a faculty, or the head of the department which produces graduates in Thai traditional medicine or applied Thai traditional medicine and the members of the administrative board must have the qualifications, experience and potential appropriate to establishing and overseeing operations to ensure that they proceed smoothly in accordance with the curriculum; the administrative board must have an adequate scope of powers and responsibilities to manage, oversee, and coordinate with instructors responsible for various courses in all subject areas, including instruction at affiliated hospitals and clinics.

Section 8. An institution must have an organizational structure and an adequate number of qualified personnel and a clearly-defined administrative system able to support instruction in line with the institution's determination; it has important and necessary bodies for overseeing educational management, e.g. a body responsible for instructional development for faculty members, registration and assessment, student affairs, educational quality assurance, etc.

An institution must have an adequate number of qualified permanent faculty members with an assigned teaching load in keeping with the requirements set by the subcommittee.

An institution must have a process for developing faculty members' knowledge and understanding of their roles and duties, basic knowledge of teaching and assessment, and increasing professional knowledge and experience.

Section 9. An institution must demonstrate clear and adequate sources of funding to support instruction in accordance with the program, execution of plans, and faculty development.

Section 10. In the initial phase, an institution should sign an agreement with another institution already certified by the Thai Traditional Medical Council to advise, assist or serve as an escort institution.

Part 3 Instructional Management

Section 11. An institution must ensure that its curriculum has an educational philosophy and objectives consistent with the standards criteria for practitioners of Thai traditional medicine or practitioners of applied Thai traditional medicine, and the Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, and has a curriculum structure and content in compliance with the requirements set by the subcommittee.

Section 12. An institution must ensure that instruction is consistent with the educational objectives of the curriculum; it must use educational methods in line with the Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, and give emphasis to professional practice and experience in real situations appropriately overseen by instructors, and gives emphasis to fostering high moral and ethical standards in students throughout the program.

Section 13. The institution must provide specific details on each subject included in the curriculum and other relevant documentation in a form consistent with the requirements stipulated in the Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.

Section 14. In assessing educational outcomes, an institution must use assessment strategies consistent with the Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.

Section 15. An institution must put in place a clear set of rules and regulations pertaining to educational management, assessment and evaluation of outcomes, which must be available to all faculty members and students, and in this regard, these must be consistent with the criteria and operating guidelines set by the Office of Higher Education Commission.

Title 4**Buildings, Educational Facilities and Equipment**

Section 16. An institution must have adequate classrooms and instructional media for both the theoretical and practical components of each course included in the curriculum. It must also have an adequate number of textbooks, an information technology system, and sufficient Internet-enabled computers for search purposes for the number of students enrolled.

Section 17. The institution must have a hospital or clinic offering Thai traditional medical treatment with a sufficient number of patients in each of the four main areas of study in Thai traditional medicine and in applied Thai traditional medicine: Thai medicine, Thai pharmacy, Thai massage, and midwifery.

An institution must have its own production unit of herbal medicine covering a range of herbal medicines, both in mixed- and single-herb formulations.

If an institution is unable to offer instruction in any subject area or in any single subject or is in the process of obtaining adequate required resources or its own resources as in Paragraphs 1 and 2, the institution must request assistance from another body possessing these resources; the institution shall enter into a clear agreement signed by a legally-authorized signatory under which the institution must be able to have a role in overseeing instructional management in a convenient and effective manner. In such cases, there must be faculty members clearly assigned to supervise instruction and/or professional training and the faculty-student ratio must comply with the requirements set by the subcommittee.

Part 5
Students

Section 18. An institution must set clear criteria and methods for selecting students which are transparent and fair.

Section 19. An institution must set admissions criteria for students consistent with the criteria for selecting applicants set by the Ministry of Education with the educational level not lower than high school and with the study of subject content in Sciences.

An institution may give credit for an applicant's previous studies and experience, in which case, the transfer of credits must comply with the regulations or rules of the institution.

Section 20. An institution must determine the number of students it can admit in each academic year, consistent with the criteria set by the subcommittee.

Section 21. An institution must set up a body or system responsible for overseeing, supporting and developing students in both regular courses and extracurricular activities by assigning each student a faculty advisor who shall monitor progress, provide assistance and prevent and address study-related and other problems, and help to instill good attitudes in students.

Part 6
Quality Assurance

Section 22. An institution must have a system for assuring the quality of educational programs and instructional management that complies with Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.

Title 2
Application for Institutional Certification

Section 23. An institution having the qualifications stipulated in Section 1 may submit an application for institutional certification to the Secretary General together with all documentary evidence specified by the subcommittee.

When the Secretary General is in receipt of the application, he/she must forward it to the subcommittee for consideration within 90 days as of the day on which the subcommittee receives the application, and the subcommittee may ask for an extension of the period for consideration but not more than two times and for each time not more than 30 days, after which time the recommendations must be forwarded to the Committee.

When the Committee has decided to certify the institution and that institution has paid the inspection for certification fee and the fee for issuing the program certification document, the institution is then considered as having been certified and the Secretary General shall notify the institution of such.

Title 3
Duties and Responsibilities of Institutions Receiving Certification

Section 24. Once an institution has received certification from the Thai Traditional Medical Council that it is ready to offer a course of studies in Thai traditional medicine or in applied Thai traditional medicine and the Office of Higher Education Commission has been informed of the program, the institution may then begin offering instruction, and the institution has the duty and responsibility to operate in strict compliance with the certification criteria.

Section 25. Each academic year institutions must submit a report as stipulated in the Qualifications Standards for subject-specific bachelor degrees or the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education to the Thai Traditional Medical Council for consideration and acknowledgement or for recommendations for improvements.

Section 26. The subcommittee may set the period of time for monitoring or inspecting each institution to assure educational quality as necessary and appropriate, in which case the institution is responsible for all expenses and fees incurred in the process of carrying out educational quality assurance in accordance with guidelines set by the subcommittee.

Section 27. An institution which has received certification must renew its certification every five years by submitting an application to the Thai Traditional Medical Council as in Section 2 *mutatis mutandis*.

Applications for renewal of certification must be submitted not less than 90 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, and once the application has been submitted, the institution may continue to offer instruction until such time as the Committee orders otherwise.

When the Committee has decided to renew the certification of an institution and the institution has paid the inspection for certification fee and program certification renewal fees, the institution's certification shall be considered renewed and the Secretary General shall notify the institution of such.

Title 4

Changes of Information Pertaining to a Certified Institution

Section 28. If an institution wishes to change any of the information contained in its application for certification whether concerning the curriculum structure, courses in the curriculum, or the number of students enrolled each academic year, the institution must submit a request to certify the changes in information to the Secretary General prior to the start of the academic term.

When the Secretary General has received such a request, he/she must forward it to the subcommittee, who shall consider the matter and submit its recommendations to the Committee in a timely manner.

When the Committee decides to certify the changes in information requested by an institution and that institution has paid the fees for certifying these changes, then the institution shall be considered as having its changes in information certified and the Secretary General shall promptly notify the institution of such.

Title 5

Revocation of an Institute's Certification

Section 29. If an institution no longer meets the qualifications stipulated in this regulation or if it is found that an educational institution is unable to operate in accordance with the established criteria, the subcommittee is authorized to order the institution to make all necessary corrections, but if an institution fails to do so within the set period of time, the subcommittee may recommend that the Committee revoke the institution's certification.

An institution whose certification has been revoked as in Paragraph 1 may make a written appeal to the Committee within 30 days of notification of revocation.

The decision of the Committee shall be final.

Temporary Provision

Section 30. Institutions which have received certification from the Thai Traditional Medical Council prior to the date on which this regulation enters into effect shall be considered as institutions having received certification under this regulation and certification shall be valid for a period of five years as of the date on which this regulation enters into effect.

Given on 24th November B.E. 2557 (2014)

Narong Sahamethapat

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health

President of the Thai Traditional Medical Council

Unofficial translation