



The Commission has listened to and heard the concerns expressed by stakeholders surrounding the unpreventable cancellation and subsequent rescheduling of the March/April 2020 BOC exam due to COVID-19. The Commission acknowledges this unprecedented situation, the stress and anxiety this may have caused students and the apparent negative impact it may have had on some students' exam performance.

The Commission assembled a task force to evaluate the 2019-2020 exam data, benchmark with peer health care accreditors, review CHEA and DOE guidance regarding programmatic outcomes, and provided a recommendation to the Board regarding how to best respond to stakeholder concerns. During the Commission's November Board meeting, the following decision was made regarding the 2019-2020 BOC exam performance.

The Commission approved a **temporary** change to our accreditation action algorithm for pass rate non-compliance due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on exam performance during the 2019-2020 exam year (as seen below). Accreditation actions regarding non-compliance with our pass rate standards are taken during the February meeting of the Board of Commissioners. This accreditation action algorithm only applies to Standard 11 of the 2012 Professional Standards and Standard 6 of the 2020 Professional Standards, provided here:

Standard 11 (2012 Professional Standards) Data Analysis: Programs must meet or exceed a three-year aggregate of 70 percent first-time pass rate on the BOC examination.

Standard 6 (2020 Professional Standards) The program meets or exceeds a three-year aggregate of 70% first-time pass rate on the BOC examination.

	Accreditation Actions Standard 11 (2012 Standards) or Standard 6 (2020 Standards)
Previously non-compliant with Standard 11/6, but now BOC pass rate is above 70%	Historical Action: Remove Probation 2021 Action: Remove Probation
Newly non-compliant with Standard 11/6	Historical Action: Placed on Probation Temporary 2021 Action: Non-Compliant, program will not be placed on Probation
On Probation for one (1) year with pass rate below 50%	Historical Action: Accreditation Withdrawn Temporary 2021 Action: Program remains on Probation but Accreditation will not be Withdrawn; program will Show Cause
On Probation for one (1) year with pass rate above 50%, but below 70%	Historical Action: Show Cause Temporary 2021 Action: Remain on Probation, program will not Show Cause

This decision is not an indication that the Commission will be making a change to the pass rate Standards. This decision was reached after careful deliberation to appropriately acknowledge the challenges faced by athletic training students due to the changes in exam availability due to COVID-19 posed to athletic training students. Given the unprecedented nature of the global pandemic, the Commission does not foresee future exam cancellations such as those experienced in 2020. **Therefore, it is our intent to return to our historical accreditation actions in 2022 for programs that are non-compliant with the pass rates standard.**

As a health-professions accrediting body, we have an obligation to the students and to the public to ensure a minimum quality in our educational programs. While certainly not the only quality indicator, our pass rate standards remain bright line quality standards from which prospective students and the public can gauge programmatic quality. Ultimately, the pass rate standards are designed to help assure minimum program quality. While COVID-19 has presented many challenges, institutions are publicly affirming their ability to continually deliver appropriate educational quality by virtue of continuing to matriculate students in most instances without delay. Programs that are concerned about their ability to deliver the appropriate curricula to assure student success on the BOC exam should consider implementing appropriate changes, such as delayed program completion.

Programs are reminded that, at this time, prior Commission approval will not be required for programs needing to delay program completion as long as the program has appropriate institutional, state and regional accreditor approval to do so. However, programs that choose to implement a delayed program completion strategy must notify the Commission immediately. A letter describing the delayed program completion plan that is signed/dated by the provost/chief academic officer must be submitted through the Substantive Change tab within eAccreditation. Note that this represents a material change from our previous communication to programs where we only requested that programs notify the Commission of delayed program completion. **This written notification is now required.**

Additionally, please note the following:

- All programs non-compliant with Standard 11 of the 2012 Standards or Standard 6 of the 2020 Standards will be required to complete both an [Analytic Progress Report and an Action Plan](#) due June 1, 2021. Additional details regarding accreditation actions will be communicated to programs following the Commission's February 2021 meeting.
- The Commission reminds programs that BOC exam candidates who are enrolled and/or registered in their final semester/quarter prior to graduation from a CAATE accredited program are eligible to sit for the BOC exam. Qualified candidates for the BOC exam must receive confirmation of their eligibility on their exam application by the Program Director indicating that they have earned or will earn their Bachelors or Masters degree. This confirmation is of eligibility only, not an endorsement of skill/competence to pass the BOC exam. If the Program Director of a CAATE accredited athletic training program refuses to confirm eligibility for the exam application to allow a candidate to sit for the BOC exam, the student may mail the BOC an official transcript with degree and date of degree posted in a university sealed envelope and a written request for the BOC to confirm eligibility. **The Program Director cannot prevent an eligible student from sitting for the BOC examination.**
- If the program wishes to establish criteria for students to progress within the program or for graduation, the program may do that, provided that criteria are consistent with institutional policies and communicated to the student upon entrance into the program. It is assumed that if a student is not competent to practice, then such a student would not have been able to progress through, complete, and graduate from the program.

If your program has specific questions or additional concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the CAATE Office at 1 (512) 733-9700 or support@caate.net.