

# Highlights Report: Progress at the Midpoint of ACCME's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan



# Our Mission, Our Vision



## VISION

A world where our community of educators supports clinicians in delivering optimal healthcare for all.

## MISSION

To assure and advance quality learning for healthcare professionals that drives improvements in patient care.

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# A Message from Graham McMahon

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE ACCME

## AS WE MARK THE HALFWAY POINT OF

ACCME's four-year strategic plan, I am both proud and inspired by the significant strides our community has made together. This Highlights Report showcases the incredible progress we have achieved across each of our five strategic goals—each an essential part of our mission to support healthcare professionals in providing quality care through lifelong learning.

In our pursuit of excellence, we have prioritized integrity and collaboration in every facet of our work. The improvements we have made in streamlining our accreditation process and strengthening our partnerships demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a trusted and agile accreditation system.

We are also proud of the collaborative networks we have fostered, both within and beyond the United States, which help us address complex challenges and uphold the highest standards in continuing medical education globally.

Our commitment to advancing excellence in accredited continuing medical education (CME) has been at the heart of recent innovations, from launching new learning events to expanding our ACCME Academy resources. These efforts enable providers to deliver impactful education that advances the quality of care while supporting professional growth for clinicians and educators alike.

We have deepened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by ensuring that these principles guide not only the development of effective accredited CME but also our day-to-day operations. By fostering an inclusive environment, we continue to lay the groundwork for a healthcare education system that is equitable and accessible to all.

At the same time, we have sharpened our focus on collaboration—whether through data-sharing initiatives with certifying and licensing boards or expanding our interprofessional accreditation opportunities. The breadth of these initiatives underscores our belief in the power of partnerships to drive meaningful change.

As we look to the final two years of this strategic plan, we remain optimistic and ready to continue this momentum. There is still much work ahead, but with the dedication of our accredited providers, partners, and staff, I have every confidence that we will achieve our goals. Together, we are building a system that not only meets the demands of today's healthcare landscape but also anticipates and prepares for the challenges of tomorrow. Thank you for your commitment to this mission and your unwavering support for ACCME's vision for a brighter, healthier future.



**GRAHAM McMAHON, MD, MMSc**

President and Chief Executive Officer

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

247,000

ACCREDITED  
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.3M

AMA PRA  
CATEGORY 1 CREDITS™  
AVAILABLE

68M

LEARNER INTERACTIONS

# Our Community

The evidence is in: Accredited CME improves patient safety, controls spending, increases physician recruitment and retention, protects learners from commercial influence, uses teams to improve care, and expands preventative care.

We salute the healthcare continuing education professionals who deliver on the promise of accredited CME.

Our community of over 1,600 CME providers within the ACCME System represents a diverse network of organizations, including hospitals, medical schools, specialty societies, and healthcare associations, all committed to advancing healthcare quality and patient outcomes. These providers serve a wide range of communities and populations, locally, state-wide, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

We welcome the 56 new ACCME-accredited and 61 jointly accredited providers that joined our community in 2022-2024. Congratulations are in order for the 395 providers that received reaccreditation, and the 87 that achieved Accreditation with Commendation by ACCME and Joint Accreditation.

We further extend a hearty welcome to organizations outside the US who have joined the accreditation system from Abu Dhabi, Australia, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.



# Saluting our Leaders and Volunteer Committee Members

Our deepest gratitude goes to the dedicated [volunteers of the ACCME](#), including our esteemed board and committee members, whose hard work and steadfast leadership are at the heart of our mission. Through their commitment to excellence and their expertise, they have strengthened our organization's capacity to foster meaningful advancements in continuing medical education. Each of them brings invaluable insights and perspectives that help shape our strategic vision and support the continuous improvement of our profession. Their tireless service exemplifies a shared commitment to elevating healthcare quality and positively impacting patient and community health. We are grateful for their contributions, and it is with sincere appreciation that we acknowledge the difference they make each day.



## STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

# Act with Integrity

*This goal emphasizes maintaining the ACCME's reputation as a trusted accreditor while ensuring integrity and consistency across its accreditation system, particularly in collaboration with state medical societies (SMS) and global healthcare accrediting bodies.*

### ACCELERATING INITIAL ACCREDITATION

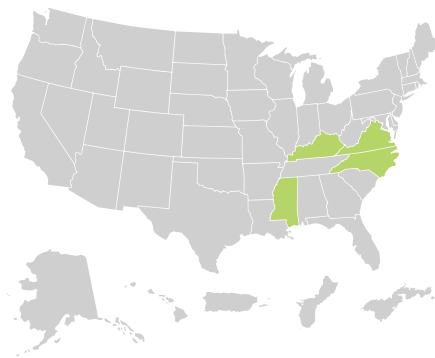
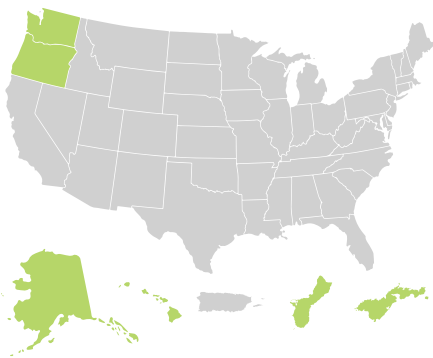
ACCME introduced a streamlined accreditation process, reducing timelines from 12 months to as short as 5 months, ensuring quality without delay.

### STRENGTHENING OUR ACCREDITATION NETWORK

In an ongoing effort to improve the efficiency and sustainability of accreditation decision-making throughout our system, ACCME encouraged smaller Recognized Accreditors to consider consolidating resources. Toward that end, two regional accreditation collaborations have been established:

**The PACWest Continuing Education Accreditation Collaborative**, uniting Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington for improved decision-making and efficiency in accredited CME.

**The Southern States CME Collaborative**, led by the Medical Society of Virginia and including Kentucky, Mississippi, and North Carolina.



### ENSURING COMPLIANCE IN JOINT PROVIDERSHIP

[Joint providership](#) affords accredited organizations the opportunity to collaborate with nonaccredited organizations to enhance the diversity and value of their educational offerings. To ensure that joint providership contributes to the planning and implementation of CME activities in compliance with ACCME expectations, we:

- Issued an advisory letter about best practices in assuring content validity to all organizations that offer joint providership.
- Offered guidance in the form of a [Compliance Check](#).

These communications served to remind accredited providers to do their due diligence before agreeing to collaborate with an organization; carefully review content, particularly when it addresses unconventional approaches to medical care; carefully review all marketing materials; and empower themselves to withdraw accreditation from an activity at any time deemed necessary. We want to ensure that joint providership continues to be available in our system and that accredited providers that engage in it do so with all the proper safeguards.

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Substantive Equivalency through IACPDA

ACCME was among the first CPD/CME accreditation systems to apply for and demonstrate Substantive Equivalency through the [International Academy for CPD Accreditation](#) (IACPDA), which was established in 2013 with the ACCME as a founding member. IACPDA is a network of accrediting and regulating body colleagues dedicated to aligning and evolving CPD accreditation systems throughout the world.

### Recognition by the World Federation for Medical Education



Building on the important work for the IACPDA, the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) has established a global recognition system for quality CPD accreditors. The WFME adopted the IACPDA standards and granted immediate recognition to ACCME and other pilot peer-review participants.

The ACCME staff and other IACPDA members will work closely with the WFME as their new CPD recognition program is established.

### Global Directory of Accredited Activities

In support of the value of the accredited CME developed by our community, the ACCME created a comprehensive directory of [countries that accept ACCME-accredited activities for relicensure](#).

## ADDRESSING MISINFORMATION

ACCME collaborated with the [Council of Medical Specialty Societies](#) (CMSS), [National Academy of Medicine](#) (NAM), and [World Health Organization](#) on a project funded by Google/YouTube to identify characteristics that identify both quality sources and medical misinformation. Following public commentary and input, standards were developed and were expected to be implemented by Meta and YouTube.

## SHOWCASING OUR IMPACT

ACCME's annual data reports document significant growth in accredited activities, interactions, and revenue, demonstrating a resilient and expanding network of CME providers.





## STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

# Advance Excellence in Accredited Continuing Education

*Accredited providers must continuously evolve to meet the changing needs of their learning community. Delivering education is only part of the obligation—the education must ultimately help maintain or advance the quality of care. The ACCME is a trusted source of tools, resources, and training for education professionals. We plan to build on these strengths to enhance the impact of our system's accredited education, while supporting the measurement, reporting, and sharing of outcomes data.*

### FOSTERING A COMMUNITY OF CE LEADERSHIP

In fulfillment of this strategic goal, the ACCME continues to engage CME professionals and clinical educators in comprehensive educational offerings to support professional development and unleash the impact of CME teams at every stage of their careers.

#### *Learn to Thrive Meeting in Chicago (Spring)*

The annual in-person conference brings the accredited CME community together each spring to share best-practices, network and collaborate, and advance professional leadership.

2022

**404**

ATTENDEES

+376 VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

2023

**600**

ATTENDEES

2024

**622**

ATTENDEES

#### *ACCME Accreditation Workshop (Summer)*

For newcomers, the foundational Accreditation Workshop is a critical onboarding opportunity. The annual event continues to grow in popularity, with attendance at an all-time high in 2024. The workshop serves over 200 attendees preparing to apply for initial accreditation or re-accreditation as well as those wanting to hone and refine their knowledge of the accreditation standards.





**Learn to Thrive PLUS Virtual Meeting (Fall)**

Added in 2023, Learn to Thrive PLUS supports a global conversation while extending opportunities for learning and networking through a value-packed single day for the accredited CME community online. Over 300 participants from approximately 200 organizations attended in 2023 and 2024.

**ACCME Academy (Year-round)**

The ACCME's online virtual home for professional development complements live events with year-round, on-demand education that allows learners to develop their skills and utilize resources for their accredited CME programs at their own pace. The ACCME Academy offers accredited providers free access to over 100 courses designed to enhance their knowledge and application of the accreditation standards and best practices in continuing education.



**ACCME  
Academy**



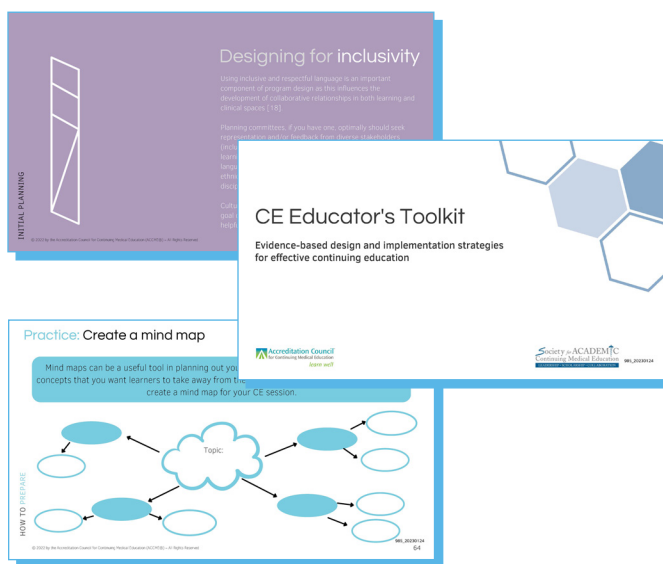
The Accreditation Tips courses were VERY well done and have been invaluable to my understanding. Every time I take the courses, I become more enthused about CME and doing a better job with my SMS.

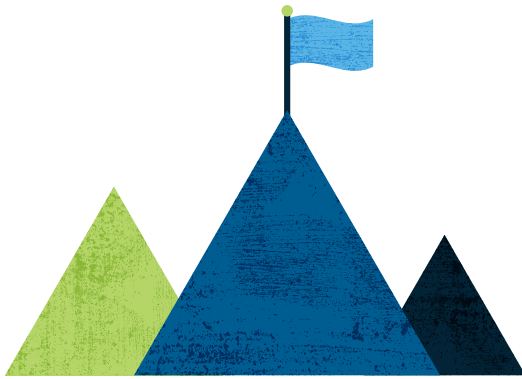
– Mary Gayle Armstrong, MD  
Southern States CME Collaborative

**BEST PRACTICES IN CME/CPD EDUCATIONAL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**CE Educator's Toolkit**

The ACCME awarded a grant for the implementation program of best practices in CME/CPD educational design to the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education (SACME) and collaborated with SACME to produce the “[CE Educator's Toolkit—Evidence-based Design and Implementation Strategies](#).” The toolkit has been the focus of education sessions at Learn to Thrive, the Accreditation Workshop, and the ACCME Academy. It was featured in a *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions* (JCEHP) article and podcast. ACCME subsequently released a CE Educator's Toolkit Companion as a resource to help guide CE teams on a journey to use the toolkit to improve the effectiveness of their educational programs.





### ***Clinician Educator Milestones***

ACCME disseminated the [Clinician Educator Milestones](#)—developed in partnership with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Association of American Medical Colleges—to support the development and improvement of teaching and learning skills across the continuum of medical education. The 18 milestones form a solid foundation for faculty development of clinician-educators.



The Clinician Educator Milestones serve as a vital resource to help physicians navigate their lifelong learning and offer key stepping-stones on the ladder of success. I am enthusiastic about using the milestones in my self-assessment and in the mentorship of my residents and development of my core faculty.



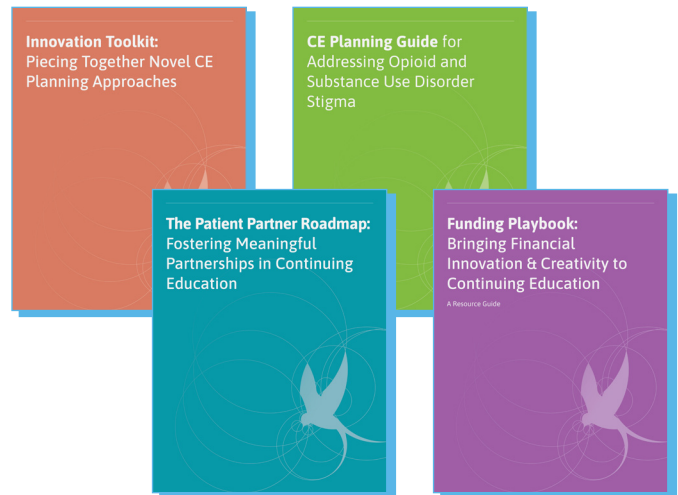
– Rebecca Daniel, MD, FACP

Director of Continuing Medical Education, Director of Transitional Year Residency, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

### ***Working Group Resources***

ACCME engaged our community of accredited providers through Working Groups that developed the [following resources](#) to assist their continuing education colleagues:

- [CE Planning Guide for Addressing Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Stigma](#)
- [The Patient Partner Roadmap: Fostering Meaningful Partnerships in Continuing Education](#)
- [Innovation Toolkit: Piecing Together Novel CE Planning Approaches](#)
- [Funding Playbook: Bringing Financial Innovation & Creativity to Continuing Education](#)



### ***Certificate Program***

Our first certificate programs for CME/CPD professionals/administrators are scheduled for launch during Learn to Thrive 2025. The first program will focus on our Standards for Integrity and Independence in Continuing Education, and the second will cover data management in ACCME's Program and Activity Reporting System (APARS).

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

From 2022 to 2024, ACCME leaders have authored and co-authored 17 journal articles to address issues of concern to the greater accredited CME community including the transformation of CME in other parts of the world, identifying credible sources of health information in social media, and CME as a way to mitigate physician burnout.



## JOURNAL ARTICLES

[Transforming Continuing Professional Development for Healthcare Professionals to Meet National Goals in Saudi Arabia, \*Journal of CME\*](#)

[International Medical Graduates and the Physician Workforce, \*JAMA\*](#)

[Clinician Educator Milestones: Assessing and Improving Educators' Skills, \*Academic Medicine\*](#)

[Effect of COVID-19 on Continuing Education Activities and Learner Interactions: Report from Six Accreditation Systems, \*Journal of CME\*](#)

[Risks and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Endocrinology, \*The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism\*](#)

[Paving the Way Forward for Evidence-Based CPD, \*Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions\*](#)

[Identifying Credible Sources of Health Information in Social Media Phase 2: Considerations for Non-Accredited Nonprofit Organizations, For-Profit Entities, and Individual Sources, \*NAM Perspectives\*](#)

[Abu Dhabi's Journey Towards Excellence in Continuing Medical Education, \*Journal of CME\*](#)

[Continuing Education as a Contributor to Mitigating Physician Burnout, \*Journal of CME\*](#)

[The Role of Specialty Certification in Career-Long Competence, \*Academic Medicine\*](#)

[AOA Critical Issues Symposium: Leadership and Education During and After COVID-19, Back to the Future or a New Normal, \*The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery\*](#)

[Regulators Collaborate to Digitize CME for America's Doctors, \*Journal of Medical Regulation\*](#)

[Incentivising Higher Level Outcome Achievement in Continuing Education: Five-Year Experience from the ACCME Commendation Criteria, \*Journal of European CME\*](#)

[Leading Change Together: Supporting Collaborative Practice through Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education, \*Journal of European CME\*](#)

[Effect of COVID Pandemic on Accredited CME in US, \*Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions\*](#)

[Vive la Différence: A Comparison of CPD Quality Assurance Systems in France and The United States, \*Journal of European CME\*](#)

[ANCC Endorses and Adopts Standards for Integrity & Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, \*The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing\*](#)

## STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

# Provide Exemplary Service

*To deliver on our mission and reflect our values, we must offer exceptional support and resources to our accredited provider community. Accredited providers rely on the ACCME to facilitate their work and effort. Our community expects and deserves exemplary service across all aspects of the ACCME's operations—including communications, education, accreditation, recognition, administration—and an IT and data platform to bring these together seamlessly. An advanced data infrastructure supports greater engagement in the accredited continuing education system, builds learner self-awareness, helps healthcare professionals find and choose activities that fit their specific needs, facilitates self-reflection and the construction of an individualized educational plan, and serves as a powerful repository for generating and answering research questions.*

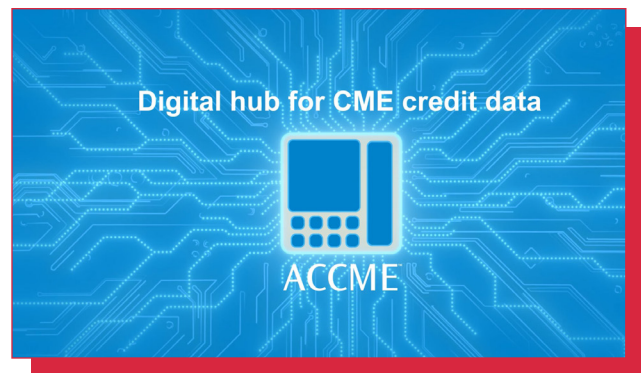
## CENTRALIZING CME DATA FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF STAKEHOLDERS

### **PARS & CME Passport**

With the launch of CME Passport in 2022, we embarked on a new journey to streamline and centralize accredited CME data for our accredited providers, their learners and credentialing bodies.

Accredited providers enter their CME activities into our Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS). Physicians can search for CME offerings at [cmepassport.org](http://cmepassport.org), register for the activity, and request that the responsible accredited provider report their credit into PARS. Physicians can then download a transcript of their credits and provide that transcript to their state licensing board, medical specialty certifying board, or hospital credentialing officer.

To make matters easier, ACCME allows all state licensing boards to access the learner credit data in PARS to facilitate their auditing process. Sixteen states actively do so, along with eight certifying boards, representing more than half of licensed physicians in the United States.



Explore and manage  
the world of CME



The collaboration between the ACCME and American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) has greatly expanded diplomates' access to CME by increasing the variety and number of activities available to meet MOC requirements. This collaboration enables us to recognize a wider range of practice-relevant and diverse educational activities for MOC, empowering diplomates to pursue targeted learning that aligns with their specific educational needs.

– **Natalie Trahey**

Director, Program Operations, ABIM

As more accredited providers actively report learner credits, we move closer to our goal of providing a seamless, centralized data hub for CME activity and credits.

Data Snapshot:



In an effort to continuously improve data reporting, we established web services with multiple accredited providers and their learning management systems. In addition, we are investing in additional software development to improve the matching of learner identity.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) collaborated with the ACCME to update its Nurse Activity Reporting System (NARS) to be on the same platform as PARS, thereby fostering useability with a streamlined reporting infrastructure.

### **MATE Act**

The [Medication Access and Training Expansion \(MATE\) Act](#) of 2022 required new or renewing DEA registrants, as of June 27, 2023, to have completed a total of at least eight hours of accredited continuing education (CE) on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders before renewing their license. The act expanded opportunities for practitioners to fulfill their training requirements, including via accredited CE. ACCME stepped up to produce a [resource guide](#) for accredited providers and urge them to take the following actions:

- Educating stakeholders on the law and federal guidance
- Planning and registering pain and substance use disorder (SUD)-related activities in PARS so that learners can search for and find activities that would support the MATE Act expectations on [CMEPassport.org](#).
- Help learners understand that your accredited CE activities meet the expectations of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to fulfill the MATE Act requirement for prescribers.



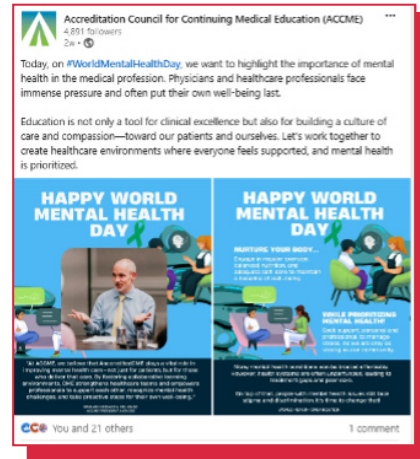
ACCME subsequently launched search results on [CMEpassport.org](#) to allow the identification of relevant activities in pain management/opioid use/addiction.

## INFORMING AND ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

### Growth in social media engagement

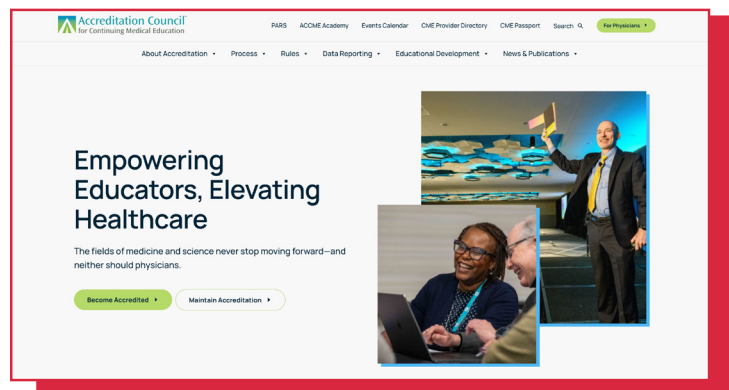
ACCME engages our stakeholders on social media, with a particular focus on LinkedIn, where our community enjoys celebrating professional achievements, and Instagram, where our engagement has nearly doubled.

	4,800+ Followers		2,000+ Followers
	2,200+ Followers		2,040+ Followers



### Website redesign

Our newly designed website, ACCME.org, boasts a clean, modern design. The main navigation includes new sections about the process of accreditation and resources related to data reporting and educational development. Additional resources, housed in the new Document Library under News and Publications, are also tagged to appear on pages with related content.



# #Accredited CME Delivers



### Promoting the value of accredited CME

ACCME launched **#AccreditedCME Delivers**, a campaign to help accredited providers communicate the value of their work and the critical difference CME can make for healthcare organizations. A social media toolkit includes evidence-based messages that convey the incredibly valuable role the CME team plays in addressing some of healthcare's most difficult challenges.

### Coffee with Graham Podcasts

Conversations about topics that affect clinicians, educators, and healthcare thought leaders in CME included:

- Accessibility in Healthcare and Healthcare Continuing Education
- The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare
- Building Gender Equity in Medicine
- Exploring the Digital Healthcare Landscape



## Compliance Check

### Compliance Check

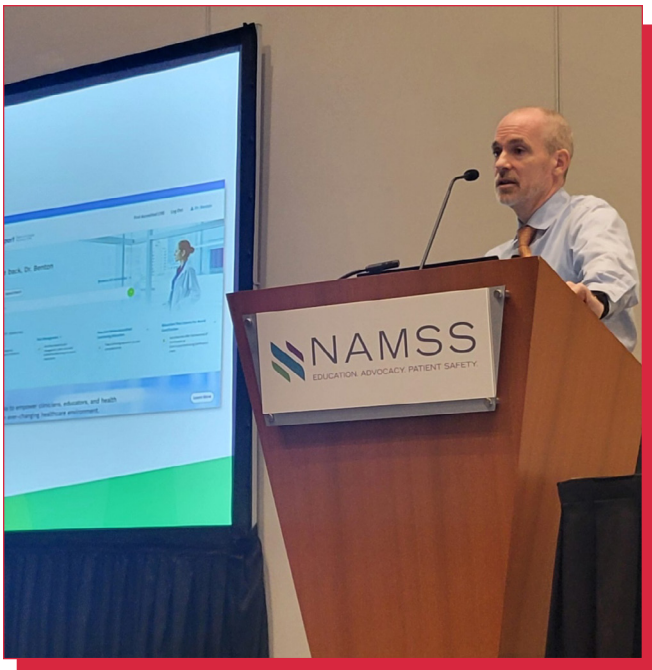
In 2023, ACCME launched [Compliance Check](#), a popular series of quick tips to help accredited providers understand accreditation requirements. Topics have included mitigating relevant financial relationships, collecting information from speakers and planners, and understanding the exceptions to Standard 3, among others.

### Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day

ACCME collaborated with six organizations to create a new day of recognition for our esteemed healthcare continuing education professionals. [Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day](#) will be celebrated on Friday during the third full week of January beginning Friday, January 24, 2025.



## Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day™



### We are here for you: Availability to our stakeholders

One way we build relationships with our stakeholders is to make ourselves available when and where they meet. With presentations and exhibits, we stepped up our presence at conferences of the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions (the Alliance), the American Board of Medical Specialty Societies (ABMS), Federation of State Medical Licensing Boards, and the National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS). Come talk with us!

ACCME President and CEO Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc, National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS) 48th Educational Conference and Exhibition, 2024, Denver, CO.



## STRATEGIC GOAL 4:

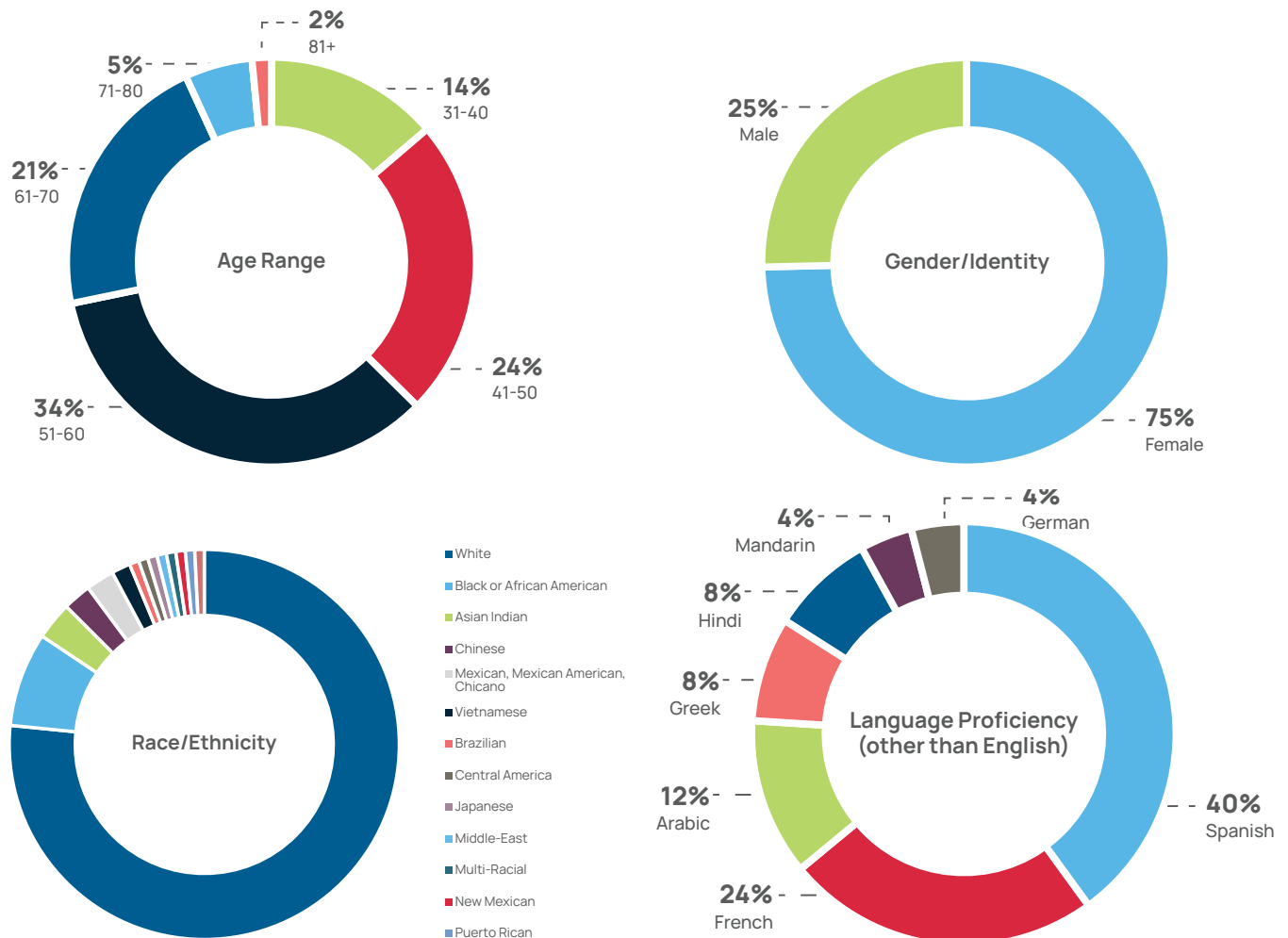
# Promote Diversity and Inclusion

*The accredited continuing education enterprise should support the evolution of the overall system by incentivizing and rewarding practices that demonstrate recognition of the need for, and value of, incorporating the issues of diversity, health equity, and inclusion into all aspects of accredited education.*

In March of 2022, the Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of its DEI Task Force, including that the ACCME (a) use its established mechanisms to incentivize and reward particular behaviors related to diversity, equity, inclusion and health equity; and (b) encourage accredited CME providers to set internal benchmarks and continuously strive to achieve and surpass those benchmarks.

### COLLECTING BASELINE DATA

In 2023, ACCME conducted a demographic survey of over 100 volunteers, including our surveyors and members of our ARC, CRR, and Board. The survey yielded baseline data for the ACCME, which was shared with our community for insight and as a model.



<https://accme.org/news/explore-accmes-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-volunteer-survey-results/>

## CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

### *Implicit Bias Training for ACCME Leadership*

In July 2022, SunShower Learning's **Marsha Ross-Jackson, JD, MPA**, of Chicago-Kent College of Law, conducted an implicit bias training session for the ACCME Board of Directors and invited reflections art as a mechanism to explore meaning and diversity in life experience and their contributions to our identity and values.



## EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

### *Resources for Educators*

In 2023 we launched a set of DEI resources on our website that includes a link to a curated search for DEI education on CME Passport, as well as content on training clinicians to recognize their own biases, incorporating empathy into curricula, pursuing policy development for equity, and advancing social justice with CE. Our community was invited to share DEI resources with their colleagues to help expand this library of DEI tools.

ACCME launched a new ACCME Academy course on addressing stigma in CE.

CE Educator's Toolkit features a large section on incorporating a DEI lens to work in CE.

### *Learn to Thrive*

Our Learn to Thrive conferences feature several elements related to DEI and continuing education. Speakers and sessions have been carefully curated to reflect a deliberate focus on equity. Notable sessions have included topics such as:

- A Call to Action: Committing to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CPD
- Journey to Equitable Healthcare: The Role of the CME Curriculum
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism Curriculum for Medical Educators
- Building Health Equity Through Your CE Program

### *Joint Accreditation Leadership Summit*

As the primary education planner for the 2024 Joint Accreditation Leadership Summit, ACCME secured **Jackie Hunter, DC**, Vice President of Health Equity Strategies, American Hospital Association, as the keynote speaker for an impactful and powerful session titled, "Building Inclusive and Dynamic Teams."



We want to be able to actively listen and be curious. Think about humility. There may be things that you know, and there may also be things that we don't know. We are always continuing to learn and evolve, speak with courage and kindness, dialogue, not debate. All voices and emotions are valid, and also invite and acknowledge all contributions.



– Jackie Hunter, DC

### *Focus on Accessibility*

ACCME Academy released a new course on accessibility, sessions were conducted at the Accreditation Workshop in 2023 and at Learn to Thrive 2024, and accessibility was the subject of a Coffee with Graham podcast in 2024.



Compliance is really a minimum standard. We hope everyone is in compliance with the laws, but we would love to see people gearing toward moving the needle toward full accessibility.



– Kristina H. Petersen, PhD

Assistant Dean of Student Success & Access and Associate Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

The ACCME expanded on the “Guidelines and Recommendations for Incorporating DEIA into Continuing Education for Healthcare Professionals” developed by our 2021 DEIA workgroup.

In 2023, our Learn to Thrive plenary sessions began to feature live closed captioning, and our redesigned website, launched in July 2024, now adheres to accessibility standards with a revised color palette.

### **DEI WITHIN ACCREDITATION CRITERIA**

By incorporating DEI initiatives within the existing accreditation criteria, ACCME encourages CME providers to make equity a core element of their educational practices, advancing more inclusive and effective healthcare without creating new standards. This approach fosters a culture of equity in CME, motivating providers to prioritize DEI and assess their impact on healthcare outcomes. Several existing commendation criteria can already capture and reward DEI engagement, providing a framework for recognizing providers who integrate DEI into their CME programs. These include Promoting Team-based Education (i.e., Engages Patients/Public), Addresses Public Health Priorities (i.e., Assesses Population Health), and Enhances Skills (i.e., Creates Individualized Learning Plans).

### **STAFF INITIATIVES: CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING**

The ACCME staff’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Committee developed a 21-Day Guided Resource Challenge to encourage learning about social justice and marginalized communities that can be incorporated into everyday life. A staff engagement survey included questions about DEI at ACCME and our overall workplace culture. Based on the responses, ACCME created a new working group to suggest ways ACCME can continue to foster a culture of mutual respect. Our staff social and update meetings continue to facilitate team identity formation and be a safe space to share and grow together. We have been using music and other features to experience and celebrate the diversity of our terrific staff and team.

## COLLABORATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

ACCME has been an active participant in a variety of national collaborations related to DEI in medicine.

***Member of the National Advisory Council for the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AiAMC) National Initiative IX: Addressing the Social and Moral Determinants of Health***

[aiamc.org/national-initiative/NI\\_IX](http://aiamc.org/national-initiative/NI_IX)



***Member of the Coalition for Trust in Health and Science***

[trustinhealthandscience.org](http://trustinhealthandscience.org)

As members of the Coalition, we share this Vision: All people have equitable access to the accurate, understandable, and relevant information necessary to make personally appropriate health choices and decisions.



***Amplification Collaborator for the National Health Equity Grand Rounds Series***

In partnership with the American Medical Association (AMA), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, the ACCME helps promote the National Health Equity Grand Rounds. The series is a livestreamed, free educational opportunity designed to deepen understanding of key aspects of health equity.



Topics:

- History of Racism in U.S. Health Care: Root Causes of Today's Hierarchy and Systems of Power
- Follow the Money! Understanding the Structural Incentives for Inequity in Health Care and Beyond
- Creating Accountability Through Data: From Racism and Neglect to Transparency and Repair
- Advancing Health Equity Through Resistance: A State of the Union on Threats and Opportunities
- Rewrite the Script: Narrative Transformation for Equity in Health

***Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities***

ACCME engaged with the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD) to support a 2022 regulatory expectation that all licensed healthcare professionals engage in implicit bias training as part of their license renewal process. A curated search link for implicit bias training found on CME Passport was created and provided to the MHHD to be included in their license renewal resource documents.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 5:

# Demonstrate the Power of Collaboration

*Healthcare professionals often begin their careers without preparing for their roles as lifelong learners. The ACCME has a role in helping to advocate for, and support, the acculturation of humility and curiosity to ensure all healthcare professionals are ready to engage with accredited continuing education. Interprofessional continuing education helps to develop the behaviors and attitudes requisite to working in teams with colleagues from different health professions to deliver effective patient care. By harmonizing our standards and expectations across the continuum of healthcare education and professional development, between state and certifying board expectations, and across the professions, we will reduce barriers to the deployment of even more effective education that benefits all.*

## CME CREDIT DATA COLLABORATION IN SUPPORT OF PHYSICIANS

### *Certifying Board Collaboration*

ACCME facilitates data sharing of Maintenance of Certification/ Continuous Certification (MOC/CC) credit between accredited CME providers and [eight ABMS certifying boards](#) representing more than half of board-certified physicians in the United States.

Here's How It Works:

- Certifying boards set their MOC/CC requirements as they relate to life-long learning.
- Accredited CME providers register their CME activities for MOC/CC in ACCME's Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS).
- Physicians can search for accredited CME that counts for their MOC/CC requirements in CME Passport ([www.cmepassport.org](http://www.cmepassport.org)).
- Diplomates engage in the accredited education, earning both CME credit and MOC/CC credit.
- Accredited CME providers report the diplomate's MOC/CC credit into PARS.
- Collaborating certifying boards can view and download or import reported MOC/CC credit data for their diplomates for ongoing certification purposes.



Collaborating with ACCME allows us to direct American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) diplomates to targeted, accredited CME activities to help fulfill knowledge opportunities identified through MOCA Minute®. It's a key component of our MOCA program, which emphasizes ongoing assessment, reflection, and learning.

– Anna Menzies

Director of Assessment Development & Delivery, ABA

ACCME welcomes the two most recent boards to join the collaboration: the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and American Board of Thoracic Surgery. Beginning July 1, 2023, the American Board of Surgery accepts only digital CME credit reporting through PARS from accredited providers.

### *Licensing Board Collaboration*

ACCME facilitates data sharing of CME credit between accredited CME providers and [medical licensing boards](#). Since 2023, all state licensing boards have free access to the CME credit data that has been reported for their licensees to help streamline the auditing process. As of October 2024, 374,558 licensed physicians in the U.S. had credits reported in PARS, and a total of 66,757,090 credits had been reported for 100,533 courses.



PARS is a valuable tool that allows our staff to complete the CME audit process without asking the licensee for any information. This results in a faster, more streamlined renewal process for licensees and staff.

– Timothy Terranova

Executive Director, Maine Board of Licensure In Medicine

### *Regulatory alignment between licensing requirements and continuing education*

With funding from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Foundation, we engaged in a project to analyze and align the licensing board requirements around pain management, addiction, and substance use disorder. We also encouraged the state licensing boards to consider suspending state-specific pain management/addiction requirements for CME and instead align with the requirements of the MATE Act. As we explore other opportunities, our goals are to allow accredited providers to tag education that meets state licensing requirements and then make that education searchable and available to physicians through CME Passport.

## **JOINT ACCREDITATION FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION™**

ACCME is a founding member and one of 10 accrediting bodies who collaborate to offer the opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide continuing education activities for multiple professions through a single, unified application process, fee structure, and set of accreditation standards.



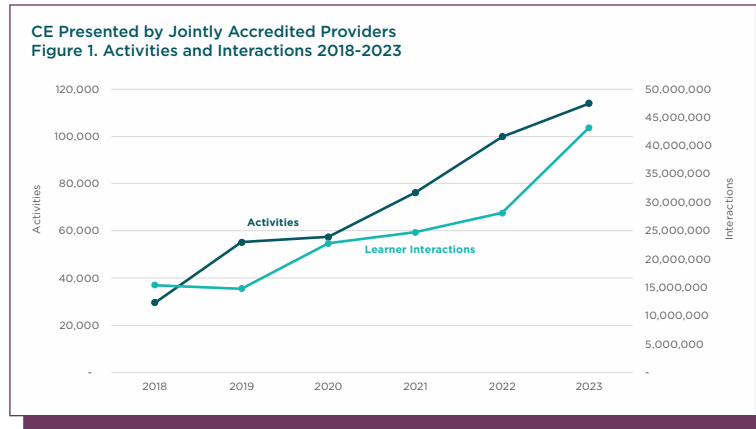
JOINT ACCREDITATION™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Collaborating Accrediting Bodies

- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME): Co-founder
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE): Co-founder
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC): Co-founder
- American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
- American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry's Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (ARBO/COPE)
- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
- Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC)
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)

Jointly accredited providers uniquely offer **interprofessional continuing education (IPCE)** – when members from two or more professions learn with, from, and about each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.

### *Growing number of providers, activities and learner interactions*



According to the 2023 Joint Accreditation Data Report, 169 accredited providers offered over 113,000 (up 14% from 2022) educational activities that accounted for over 43 million (up 54% from 2022) learner interactions.

### *New website*

In 2023, Joint Accreditation launched a new website with improved navigation, a more modern design, and helpful resources like searchable FAQs and an enhanced Find a Provider directory.



### *New strategic plan*

At the 2024 Leadership Summit, Joint Accreditation presented its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

**Vision:** Advancing interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) for all members of the health care team.

**Mission:** Committed to advancing team-based learning to empower collaborative practice and elevate the standard of patient care.

### Strategic Goals

1. Advance effective, accredited, team-based education that improves patient care.
2. Promote Joint Accreditation as a strategic resource for all health professions' CE accreditors, health care institutions, health professionals, teams, and patients.
3. Foster inclusive principles in the learning environment that will address health care disparities and create more diverse, equitable, and accessible learning.
4. Grow the IPCE community of practice to support effective education, scholarship, and research.
5. Expand the utilization of the IPCE Credit™ by licensure and regulatory agencies, certification and credentialing bodies, and employers.



**ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (ACCME®)**

401 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312.527.9200  
[www.accme.org](http://www.accme.org)