

The logo for the CAAHEP Accreditation Workshop. It features a blue square on the left containing the white text "CAA" stacked above "HEP". To the right of the square, the word "Accreditation" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font, and the word "Workshop" is written below it in a slightly smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Three small orange stars are positioned above the top right of the word "Accreditation".

CAAHEP Accreditation Workshop

July 18-19, 2025

Radisson Blu Mall of America, Bloomington, MN

AGENDA

Friday, July 18, 2025

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM **Registration and Exhibits Open**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast with Committees on Accreditation**

Kick off your day with inspiration and connection! Join us for a breakfast session where you'll have the chance to meet CoA leaders and fellow program representatives from your profession. This is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, ask questions, and share experiences with CoA representatives. Network with peers, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights that can enhance your program. Don't miss this chance to make lasting connections and start your day on a high note!

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Welcome**

Barry S. Eckert, CAAHEP President

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM **Keynote General Session**

Legal Insights into Federal Policies, the U.S. Department of Education, and Congress

James Keller, JD, Partner, Higher Education Practice Co-Chair, Saul Ewing

This presentation is an essential update on federal policies, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), and Congress. As our educational landscape evolves amidst significant political changes, Jim's insights will be invaluable for understanding the implications for accreditation and allied health education.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Break and Visit with Exhibitors**

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Pay for Learning: Registered Apprenticeships, Employer-Sponsored Opportunities, and Accredited Programs**

Teddy Farias, Dean, Health and Natural Sciences, San Jacinto College, Moderator; Sally Janes, Associate Vice Chancellor, Continuing and Professional Development, San Jacinto College; and Matthew Connell, Vice President, Healthcare, Ivy Tech Community College

An insightful session on the growing "Pay for Learning" trend. Speakers will define registered apprenticeships, employer-sponsored opportunities, and how accredited programs can develop these opportunities.

12:00 – 1:00 PM **Lunch and Exhibitor Engagement**

Refuel and network! This lunch break offers a dedicated opportunity to engage with exhibitors and discover solutions for your CAAHEP accreditation needs.

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Breakout Session 1

Session 1A: New Program, No Problem: A Practical Guide to Getting Started

Christy Baily-Byers, Director of Education, Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, Moderator; Kerry Weinberg, Program Director, Touro University New York; and Thomas Platt, Associate Dean for Academic Partnerships, University of Pittsburgh

Receive practical guidance, key considerations, and real-world experiences related to launching a new CAAHEP-accredited program. From initial concept and resource planning to navigating accreditation requirements and ensuring long-term sustainability, panelists will share lessons learned, timelines, and tools to help new program leaders start strong and stay compliant.

Session 1B: Better Together: Understanding the Relationship Between CoAs and CAAHEP

Eliza Homer, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education; and Theresa Sisneros, Director, Accreditation Services, CAAHEP

Explore the relationship between CAAHEP and its Committees on Accreditation. Through real examples and open dialogue, participants will gain a deeper understanding of each entity's role, how collaboration enhances the accreditation process, and strategies for building trust, transparency, and shared goals.

Session 1C: From Crisis to Success: Leading Change in Troubled Accreditation Program

Sathyanarayanan Rajendran, Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies; Emily Gonzalez, Lecturer; Tishra Beeson, Chair, Health Sciences, Central Washington University; and Moderator Michael Miller, Assistant Director, Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

This session is a moderated case study featuring a program that faced significant accreditation challenges under new leadership. Participants will hear firsthand how the leadership team navigated these critical issues, transformed the program, and ultimately restored its accreditation standing.

2:00 – 2:15 PM

Break and Exhibitor Engagement

2:15 – 3:15 PM

Breakout Session 2

Session 2A: How to Read CAAHEP Standards

Jennifer Anderson Warwick, Chair; and Ron Kruzel, Member, CAAHEP Standards Committee

These long-time Committee on Accreditation Executives and Standards Committee members will help to demystify the intricacies of CAAHEP standards, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of their structure and application.

Session 2B: Most Common Citations and How to Avoid Them

Sarah Marino, Executive Director, Medical Assisting Education Review Board; and Theresa Sisneros, Director, Accreditation Services, CAAHEP

A deep dive into the citation data, lessons learned, and tools programs can implement to avoid them.

Session 2C: What I Wish I Had Known Before Becoming a Program Director

Jenna LeBlanc, Instructor, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

A candid breakout offering invaluable insights for educators considering or newly navigating the role of Program Director: through practical advice and real-world experiences, you will explore the often-overlooked aspects of program administration. Learn from the lessons learned and gain actionable strategies to thrive in your leadership journey.

3:15 – 3:30 PM

Break and Exhibitor Engagement

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Breakout Session 3

Session 3A: Standards in Action: Crafting Strong Responses in Your Self-Study Report and Progress Reports

Michael Miller, Assistant Director, Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

This hands-on session will guide participants through best practices for interpreting and responding to CAAHEP Standards in both Self-Study Reports, progress reports, or any notification of non-compliance and citation responses. Participants will learn how to provide clear, complete, and evidence-based responses that align with accreditation expectations and reduce the risk of follow-up requests.

Session 3B: Strategies for Better Communication: How to Have Difficult Conversations

Kristine Tindol, Program Director, South University Master of Medical Science in Anesthesia Science

This workshop provides actionable behaviors for confidently and candidly approaching challenging conversations with employees, colleagues, and students. Learn to prepare thoughtfully and deliver feedback compassionately for mutual understanding and goal alignment.

Session 3C: Embedding Interprofessional Education (IPE) into Program DNA: Real-world Strategies for Integrating Scaffolded IPE Experiences Across the Curriculum

Sara North, Director of Educational Innovation & Evaluation, Division of Physical Therapy, Co-Director, and Cheri Friedrich, Special Coordinator, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care, Co-Director, University of Minnesota Center for Interprofessional Health.

This session will equip health professions program leaders and educators with actionable strategies to effectively implement and sustain Interprofessional Education (IPE) experiences in the classroom and clinical learning environments, aligning with accreditation expectations, national recommendations, and real-world demands.

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Reception with Exhibitors

Don't miss our evening Reception! Indulge in complimentary drinks, dinner, and desserts while engaging in informal networking with fellow attendees, members of the CAAHEP Board and CoAs, and representatives from our sponsoring organizations.

Saturday, July 19, 2025:

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration and Exhibits Open
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast and Exhibitor Engagement <i>Start Saturday off right with a full breakfast and the opportunity to visit with sponsoring organizations' exhibit tables.</i>
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Day Two Welcome <i>Gina Scarboro, Executive Director, CAAHEP</i> <i>Kick off another great day!</i>
8:45 – 9:45 AM	Networking Roundtables Dive deeper into specific accreditation areas and build valuable connections! These Networking Roundtables provide an opportunity to discuss experiences, exchange best practices, and problem-solve with colleagues. Program Directors: <i>Thomas Platt, Associate Dean for Academic Partnerships, University of Pittsburgh; Karon Walton, Department Head, Augusta Tech; and Kerry Weinberg, Program Director, Touro University New York</i> Deans & Administrators: <i>Lacie Couzin, Dean of Health Sciences, Public Affairs & Social Services, Ivy Tech Community College; Teddy Farias, Dean, Health and Natural Sciences, San Jacinto College; and Gregory Frazer, Professor, Department of Emergency Medical Services, University of South Alabama</i> Clinical Coordinators: <i>Jenna LeBlanc, Instructor, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; and Richie Palma, Director and Clinical Coordinator, Duke School of Medicine</i>
9:45 – 10:00 AM	Break and Exhibitor Engagement
10:00 – 11:00 AM	From Hype to Handbook: Crafting Smart AI Policies for Smarter Campuses <i>Leamor Kahanov, Provost & Senior Vice President, Alvernia University</i> This session will help educators and administrators understand the foundational considerations of artificial intelligence in higher education. Take home ideas to guide you in developing clear, ethical, and practical institutional AI policies for a smarter campus.
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Annual Reports: Shifting, Streamlining, and Simplifying <i>Michelle Itczak, Chair, and Eliza Homer, Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education</i> Helping programs shift their mindset to accreditation as a year-round process is beneficial in helping to simplify the annual report completion process for all involved. CoAs can support programs by providing tools that create organization and structure to help streamline and simplify the reporting process, thus reducing stress for both the CoA and programs. In this workshop, the presenters will describe some of the challenges ACATE faced when receiving annual reports. They will share about the development and implementation of tools that were created to assist programs in more easily completing annual reports, as well as the outcomes of utilizing the new tools. Attendees will have opportunities to engage in discussion about challenges specific to their CoAs and take away new ideas for solutions and the tools provided.
12:00 PM	Closing Remarks <i>Gina Scarboro, Executive Director, CAAHEP</i>

Saturday, July 19, 2025:

Post-Conference Committee on Accreditation Meetings

Your Direct Line to Accreditation Expertise: Don't miss this post-workshop opportunity to meet face-to-face with CoA staff and leaders. Get your questions answered, network with other programs, and gain valuable clarity on CAAHEP accreditation. The following Committees are hosting meetings after the CAAHEP Accreditation Workshop:

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology (JRC-CVT)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS)