

Examsoft Exam Takers

Interpreting Your Assessment Results: ACAOM Professional Competencies / Examsoft Codes

To view your exam results/reports, you will need to login to your exam taker portal through your web browser: www.examssoft.com/fcim (please use Firefox, Chrome, or Safari. Do not use internet explorer)

What you will see in the assessment reports released to you, depending on the instructor, are your scores on the assessment, your performance in each of the categories, as well as strengths and weaknesses measured against the Professional Competencies listed under ACAOM Standards Criterion 8.10. Each question in your assessment has been linked to all relevant standards and are tagged with an alphanumeric code that will look something like: 2f, 4d, 7g, 9h, etc. The numeric part of the code will indicate the standard (10 total), and the alphabetic portion will indicate the substandard under that standard. The numbering system seen below are the “Criterion Codes” you will see on your Strengths and Opportunities Report, as well as your Customized Performance Report in Examsoft.

ACAOM Standards

Criterion 8.10 - Professional Competencies: The acupuncture program of study must lead to the following professional competencies (#1-7) to be attained through learning experiences included in the curriculum. The Oriental medicine program of study must lead to the following professional competencies (#1-10) to be attained through learning experiences included in the curriculum.

1. Collecting Data and Using the Following Examinations of the Patient in Order to Be Able To Make a Diagnosis:

- a. Observation - noting the spirit, color, body structure, tongue, symptom site and complexion of the patient
- b. Olfactory examination - noting the general odor of the patient's body and of the patient's secretions, discharges and breath
- c. Audio examination - listening to the sound of the patient's voice, abdominal sounds, sounds of respiration and cough quality
- d. Palpation - noting the temperature, moisture, texture, sensitivity, tissue structure, rhythms and qualities of the abdomen, the chest, the ear, the channels and points, and the radial and regional pulses
- e. Inquiry - asking general questions, questions about medical history, chief and secondary complaints, sleep patterns, excretions, thirst and appetite, digestion, nutritional levels and patterns, medications, chills and/or fever, perspiration, pain, emotional state, lifestyle, exercise, use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, reproductive cycles and menstruation, leukorrhea, sensations of heat, cold, dizziness, tinnitus, palpitations and chest constriction
- f. Physical examination adjuncts such as akabane and electrical stimulation

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2. Formulating a Diagnosis by Classifying the Data Collected and Organizing It According to Traditional Oriental Medical Theories of Physiology and Pathology. This Skill Implies Comprehensive Understanding of the Following Fundamental Theories and Concepts:
- a. Five Phases Theory
 - b. Yin-Yang Theory
 - c. Channel Theory
 - d. Organ Theory
 - e. Causes of Disease, including the exogenous, endogenous and independent factors
 - f. Stages of Disease Progression, including the six-stage and four-aspect disease progressions
 - g. Triple Warmer Theory
 - h. The natural progression of untreated disease
3. Determining Treatment Strategy Based on the Diagnosis Formulated:
- a. The availability of additional appropriate modalities for patient referral
 - b. The ability to communicate with other health professionals regarding patient care, utilizing commonly understood medical terminology
 - c. The functions of the acupoints

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4. Performing Treatment by Applying Appropriate Techniques, Including Needles, Moxa, Manipulation, Counseling, and the Utilization of Skills Appropriate For Preparation of Tools and Instruments:

- a. Proper sterilization and aseptic procedures
- b. Preparation of the patient, including proper positioning for application of techniques
- c. Effective communication with the patient regarding the nature of the illness and the treatment plan
- d. Accurate location of acupoints
- e. Safe and effective needle insertion techniques based upon the function of the point, the recommended needling depths, the underlying anatomy at the site, the desired effect of needling, and the nature of the illness
- f. Accepted clean needle insertion practices, including protocols adequate to allow compliance with NCCAOM guidelines on sanitation, asepsis, and clean needle handling
- g. Safe and effective application of adjunctive techniques, including moxibustion, electrical stimulation and manipulation
- h. Effective control of emergency situations

5. Assessing the Effectiveness of the Treatment Strategy and its Execution:

- a. By re-examination of the patient
- b. By comparison with previous conditions and expectations
- c. By modification of the treatment plan, if required, based upon that assessment

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6. Complying with Practices as Established by the Profession and Society at Large Through:

- a. Application of a code of ethics
- b. Practice of responsible record keeping and patient confidentiality
- c. Maintenance of professional development through continuing education
- d. Maintenance of personal development by continued cultivation of compassion

7. In order to be able to:

- a. Recognize situations where the patient requires emergency or additional care or care by practitioners of other health care (or medical) modalities, and to refer such patients to whatever resources are appropriate to their care and wellbeing
- b. Appropriately utilize relevant biomedical clinical science concepts and understandings to enhance the quality of Oriental medical care provided
- c. Protect the health and safety of the patient and the health care provider related to infectious diseases, sterilization procedures, needle handling and disposal, and other issues relevant to blood borne and surface pathogens
- d. Communicate effectively with the biomedical community

The Student Must Have an Adequate Understanding of:

- e. Relevant biomedical and clinical concepts and terms
- f. Relevant human anatomy and physiological processes
- g. Relevant concepts related to pathology and the biomedical disease model

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- h. The nature of the biomedical clinical process including history taking, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up
 - i. The clinical relevance of laboratory and diagnostic tests and procedures, as well as biomedical physical examination findings
 - j. Relevant pharmacological concepts and terms including knowledge of relevant potential medication, herb and nutritional supplement interactions, contraindications and side effects
8. Making A Diagnosis/Energetic Evaluation by:
- a. Identifying position, nature and cause of the dysfunction, disorder, disharmony, vitality and constitution. This evaluation is based on the 13 concepts below plus knowledge of distinctive patterns of herbal combinations and recognition of medical emergencies.
9. Planning and Executing an Herbal Treatment using the following knowledge:
- a. Identification of most commonly used raw and prepared substances in Materia Medica
 - b. Use of common foods as healing modalities
 - c. Properties of substances in Materia Medica:
Taste, temperature, entering meridians, actions and clinical applications; identification of common biochemical constituents and common dosage guideline
 - d. Contraindications of individual herbs:
Toxicity, both traditional and biochemical; rules of combination, effect of preparation, dosage variance, and possible side effects
 - e. Traditional strategies of herbal formulation:
Sweating (sudorific), Clearing, Ejecting (emetic), Precipitating (purgative), Harmonizing, Warming, Supplementing (tonic), Dispersing

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f. Composition of formulas:

Hierarchy of ingredients, internal dynamics of ingredients, changes in hierarchy of ingredients by modification of ingredients or dosage

g. Preparation and administration of formulas:

Dosage, timing, frequency, duration, extraction times, etc.

h. Indications and functions of representative herbal formulas

i. Selection, modification and development of appropriate formulas consistent with the pattern of disharmony and treatment plan

j. Current types of prepared formulations available (pills, powder, tincture, etc.)

- Dosage variances, side effects and toxicity associated with usage, timing, frequency, duration, extraction times, etc.

- Understanding the issues surrounding non-traditional additives to prescriptions

k. Selection of the appropriate modality or modalities for treatment:

- Acupuncture, herbs, Oriental manual therapy, exercise, breathing therapy, and diet counseling

l. Consultation with patient regarding treatment plan, side effects, outcomes, and healing process

m. Biomedical considerations of herbal preparations:

- Contraindications, drug interactions, etc.

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10. Understanding Professional Issues Related to Oriental Herbs:

- a. The ethical considerations with respect to prescribing and selling herbs to patients
- b. How and when to consult and refer with appropriate biomedical or allied health practitioners regarding drug interactions and herbal therapy
- c. The appropriate management, care, and storage of herbs and herbal products