



## **Summary Report for December 2016, Public Survey in Response to ACAOM Delphi Degree Title Designation Survey**

### **Summary:**

The AAAOM conducted a survey of members and non-members from 11/28/16 to 12/15/16. There were 914 respondents, 30% were male and 70% female. The average age of the respondent was 47 but a significant number were over 60. 76.5% were practitioners, 8.6% DAOM students, 5.2% FPD students, and 9.7% masters students. 75% of the respondents had some form of NCCAOM certification, 21% were current AAAOM members and 42% former AAAOM members.

The vast majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the field should consolidate degree titles (69%), 21% were not sure, 10% disagreed. This is consistent with the AAAOM's 2012 survey where 63.5% of the 1327 respondents agreed with this statement (16.7% disagreed, and 20% were unsure).

### **Survey Results:**

#### **1. Are you male or female?**

30% Male, 70% female of 914 respondents

#### **2. Average age of the respondents**

47. However there were a lot of respondents over 60.

#### **3. Indicate your current status:**

76.50% Practitioner

8.55% DAOM student

5.24% FPD student

9.71% Masters' student



#### **4. Year that you got your first license?**

Answers varied greatly from 1980 to 2016.

#### **5. What NCCAOM certificate do you hold?**

- 44.76% Diplomate of Acupuncture
- 11.91% Diplomate of Chinese Medicine
- 1.87% Diplomate of Asian Bodywork
- 38.70% Diplomate of Chinese Medicine
- 25.36% Doesn't have an NCCAOM certificate

#### **6. Degree title currently held?**

- 59% had a Masters in AOM, 31% had a Masters in Acupuncture
- 17% held a Doctorate in AOM

#### **7. AAAOM membership status**

- 42% are former members
- 21% (192 respondents) were current paid members

#### **8. Should the field consolidate degree titles:**

- The majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed at 69%
- Only 10% either disagreed or strongly disagreed
- And 21% was not sure.

#### **9. What is your preference regarding if the Post-Graduate Doctorate Degree and the First Professional Doctorate degree titles should be the same or different?**

The respondents were exactly split on the answer to this question. The "strongly agree they should be different" was 21.95% and "strongly agree they should be the same" at 21.85%. Overall there was only statistical weighted difference of .002% in favor of the degree titles being



different. This was out of 902 respondents, only 34 skipped this question.

**10. The next question is the same, except that they added in Oriental Medicine at the end of the question. (This is actually a very misleading question anyway, as both the DAOM and the FPD do not currently offer doctorates in Acupuncture alone).**

Respondent answers were the same, with a higher rated agreement that the titles should be different by .004%.

**11. What is your most preferred title for the first professional doctorate, rating from most preferred to least preferred?**

60.57% Most preferred Doctor of Acupuncture

Second preferred was Doctor of Acupuncture Medicine (DAcM)

The least preferred answer at only 13% is Doctor of Science in Acupuncture

**12. Same question asked in a different way.**

31% strongly agreed that Doctor of Acupuncture is the best title for the First Professional Doctorate.

**13. Do you have any further comments on the degree title for the First Professional Doctorate?**

304 respondents did have comments. Most of which was wondering why we would focus on this and not "more important issues", usually regarding student loan debt and having a career that is sustainable to make a living in Acupuncture. There were also comments adamant for degree titles that contradicted each other and called for titles not listed in the survey. Many people were upset that the degree title did not represent their herbal knowledge, many thought that we should have a uniform degree title similar to chiropractors where they all graduate as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

\*\*There is no way to answer the comment section and be representative of the responses,



because there was extreme contradiction throughout.

**14. What is your most preferred degree title for the Post Graduate Acupuncture degree?**

75.94% reported Doctor of Acupuncture. (It should be noted that there were only 2 options given for this degree, the other of which is Doctor of Science in Acupuncture).

**15. Same question reworded, and once again same answer.**

**16. Do you have further comments on the Post Graduate Doctorate in Acupuncture.**

256 comments (600 skipped). Mostly wondering what is the difference between the two and why is there not more options or a Ph.D.

**17. Most preferred degree title for Masters degree in OM, ranked according to preference.**

- A weighted score of 5.92 was given to Master of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- A weighted score of 5.83 was given to Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine.
- A weighted score of 5.25 was given to Master of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine.
- A weighted score of 5.19 was given to Master of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine.

**18. Same question reworded, with the exact same outcome.**

**19. 221 people had comments on this topic.**

Answers here were very much the same as the doctorate one. No one liked the options, a lot of people made up their own title, didn't think that the Masters degree in general gives enough weight to herbalism, and several people said to "keep it the way it is", all of whom had different titles for what they thought it was.

**20. This question went back to First Professional Doctorate of OM, but listed more options.**



- 26% preferred Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine
- 22% Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine
- 19% Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine
- 18% Doctor of Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine
- 

**21. Same question reworded with the same results.**

**22. 212 people had comments on this.**

Most people preferred DAOM and wondered why this was not an option.

**23. Most preferred degree title for Post Graduate Doctorate of OM**

5.99 weighted score of Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine.

5.66 score for Doctor of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine

5.28 tie between Doctor of Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine and Doctor of Acupuncture.

**24. Same question reworded with same response.**

**25. The next few questions were about further comments. Same comments from before were reiterated by members.**

People wanted to know why DAOM was not one of the options; a lot of people said that your "title doesn't matter" it only matters about the work you do; a lot of people preferred DAOM or Oriental Medicine title in general; a lot of contradictory responses again; a lot of people said that the name depends on the curriculum and that curriculum needs to be standardized across schools.