

# Texila American University College of Medicine, Guyana

## *Accreditation for three (3) years, 2023-2026*

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### January 2024 Update

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The 2023 Progress Report from Texila American University was presented to CAAM-HP at its Extraordinary General Meeting held January 24, 2024. The report was accepted. However, the Board found the explanations given by the school in response to the issues raised (e.g. the high failure rate, absence of formative assessments in Years 2 & 3 of the programme and the absence of student-directed learning) inadequate and unconvincing. The Board urged the school to seriously address the inadequacies and ensure that credible evidence is provided to substantiate the actions taken.

The Authority expects to receive evidence of further improvements in the next progress report.

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### January 2023 Determination: *Accreditation for three (3) years, 2023-2026*

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CAAM-HP carried out a site visit to Texila American University (TAU) from September 17-22, 2022. The visit involved a survey of the basic science campus and clinical affiliate in Guyana. This was Texila's second accreditation exercise with CAAM-HP.

The CAAM-HP at its meeting held January 31, 2023, considered and accepted the site visit report of the *ad hoc* assessment team comprising:

1. Dr Sherline Brown (Team Chair)
2. Dr Frances Jack-Edwards
3. Dr Curt Bodkyn

In examining the report of the *ad hoc* team, CAAM-HP noted the following:

#### A. Areas of Strength

- a. Well-designed curriculum
- b. Good application of teaching methods
- c. Small student numbers, and hence a good student to faculty ratio
- d. The diversity of students prepares them for a clinical setting where they have to deal with different patients
- e. The Doctor Patient Relationship (DPR) course
- f. The transition semester
- g. Research Methods 1 and 2 - Fostering better student exposure to research
- h. Strong emphasis on professionalism
- i. Student representation and input into curriculum reform

- j. Acceptance of Faculty feedback and opportunity for professional development
- k. Security on TAUCOM campus
- l. Formal and informal student mentorship
- m. Strong link between clinical and preclinical faculty
- n. All faculty are involved in curriculum development
- o. Good relationship with the affiliated hospital
- p. Management is constantly looking for ways to improve the system

## **B. Areas of Concern**

- a. Inadequate documentation of regulations for courses and examinations
- b. Better documentation of minutes is required to accurately reflect decisions made.
- c. No clear documentation of appraisal and promotion processes. A separate document should be created on this.
- d. Comprehensive disability policy is required (This policy should address all entrance levels including preclinical and clinical and should also take into consideration the possibility of student or staff becoming disabled while employed or attending TAUCOM)
- e. No clear documentation of the grievance process for staff
- f. More detailed and comprehensive information on the remedial process for lagging students is required.
- g. The grievance committee for student and staff should have an independent member.

## **C. Areas for Improvement**

- a. Establishment of a Research Centre
- b. Greater effort at tracking the alumni especially those are required to pass the licensure examinations prior to internship
- c. Internet connectivity / Wi-Fi to facilitate online learning
- d. Security when travelling home after on-call duty at the hospital
- e. More detailed / accurate minutes for all committees

**Decision:** The Authority, having considered the team's report as summarised above, decided that the programme be granted Accreditation for three (3) years, 2023-2026, with conditions.

CAAM-HP expects the school to submit annual progress reports to demonstrate efforts, supported by evidence, to address the areas of concern identified in the report, including but not limited to:

- the high attrition rate in Year 4 for which an explanation is required
- the absence of formative assessments in Years 1 to 3
- the absence of self-directed student learning.

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## **July 2018 Determination: *Accreditation Denied***

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This was the first full accreditation visit for Texila American University (TAU). TAU is an offshore medical school with its main campus in Guyana. The site visit took place November 19-23, 2017 and involved a survey of the basic science campus and clinical affiliate in Guyana. The site visit team members were:

1. Professor Sheik Hassan (Team Chair)
2. Dr Damian Cohall (Team Secretary)
3. Dr Corrine Sin Quee

The CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 29-31, 2018 considered and accepted the site visit report of the *ad hoc* site visit team.

**Decision:** The Authority, having considered the site visit report, decided that it was unable to accredit the programme at that time.