

# Avalon University School of Medicine, Curacao

## *Accreditation, 2023-2027*

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### July 2024 Update

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The 2024 Progress Report from Avalon University School of Medicine (AUSOM) was presented to CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 22-23, 2024. The Board acknowledged that considerable effort was made by AUSOM to comply with the recommendations of the Authority, urged the School to continue to take steps to correct the shortcomings, and looked forward to evidence of the actions taken and their outcomes in subsequent progress reports.

### July 2023 Determination: *Accreditation, 2023-2027*

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The fourth full accreditation exercise for Avalon University School of Medicine was undertaken March 26-31, 2023 and involved a visit to the main campus in Curacao and clinical affiliates in the US. The team members were:

1. Professor Minerva Thame (Team Chair)
2. Dr Curt Bodkyn (Team Secretary)
3. Professor Jean-François Lemay
4. Dr Frances Jack-Edwards

The CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 19-20, 2023, considered and accepted the site visit report of the *ad hoc* site visit team.

**Decision:** The Authority, after careful consideration of the site visit report, granted Accreditation for four (4) years from 2023-2027. The Authority noted the progress made and expects to receive annual progress reports indicating efforts made to address areas of concern as well as areas for improvement.

### September 2021 Update

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The 2021 Progress Report from the Avalon University School of Medicine was presented to the CAAM-HP at its Annual General Meeting held September 23, 2021. The Authority considered and accepted the progress report, while acknowledging the efforts made to address the major concerns, such as adequacy of faculty in relation to projected student growth, issues with the clinical programme and residency matching. CAAM-HP expects the School to provide details of further improvement in those still persisting areas of concern, in the documentation for the next accreditation survey.

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## November 2020 Update

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The 2020 Progress Report from the Avalon University School of Medicine was presented to the CAAM-HP at its Annual General Meeting held November 18-19, 2020. The Authority considered and accepted the progress report, noting the improvement and significant efforts to address areas of concern previously highlighted by the Authority. However, CAAM-HP wished to be assured of the adequacy of faculty commensurate with increased student enrolment. The Authority also expressed concern about the low matching rate and requested more information about the School's clinical training programme, licensing opportunities and matching rates.

The requirement for annual reports remains.

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## July 2019 Determination: *Provisional Accreditation, 2019-2022*

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This was the third full accreditation exercise for Avalon University School of Medicine. The visit took place May 4-10, 2019 and involved a visit to the main campus in Curacao and clinical affiliates in the US. The team members were:

1. Professor Paul R. G. Cunningham (Team Chair)
2. Dr Linda Adkison (Team Secretary)
3. Dr Ronald Aaron

The CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 25-27, 2019 considered and accepted the site visit report of the *ad hoc* site visit team.

**Decision:** The Authority, after careful consideration of the site visit report, accorded Provisional Accreditation for three (3) years from 2019-2022. The Authority also noted the progress made and expects to receive annual progress reports indicating efforts made to address areas of concern.

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## July 2016 Determination: *Not Accredited*

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This was the second full accreditation exercise for Avalon University School of Medicine. The visit took place May 22-28, 2016 and involved a visit to the main campus in Curacao and clinical affiliates in the US. The team members were:

1. Professor Anthony Weetman (Team Chair)
2. Dr Paula Wales (Team Secretary)
3. Professor Joseph Branday

The CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 27-29, 2016 considered and accepted the site visit report of the *ad hoc* site visit team.

**Decision:** The Authority noted that there was progress in some areas; however, the Authority decided that it was unable to accredit the programme because of the critical standards that were not met. The Authority observed that there was no marked improvement in curricular integration which relates in turn to the overarching concerns that there is no overall educational strategy and governance arrangements are weak.

The Authority asked that all promotional material, electronic or otherwise, accurately reflect the institution's current accreditation status.

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## July 2014 Update

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The CAAM-HP at its meeting held July 28, 2014 considered the report of the reviewers' assessment of the progress report of Avalon University School of Medicine in response to CAAM-HP's letter of October 12, 2013. The CAAM-HP noted that efforts were being made to address the issues. However, the meeting was of the opinion that the school needed to seek guidance from a medical education professional as to the required structure and organisation of a medical school and determined, therefore, that the school should reapply for accreditation in 2016 instead of 2015.

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## October 2013 Determination: *Not Accredited*

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The Avalon University School of Medicine is an offshore medical school located on the Dutch island of Curacao. The CAAM-HP survey team visited the school's main campus in Curacao and clinical teaching site in Chicago from February 16-22, 2013. The team members were:

1. **Dr Trevor McCartney**, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, *Team Chair*
2. **Dr Ian Sammy**, Senior Lecturer in Emergency Medicine, Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Trinidad, *Team Secretary*
3. **Professor Marios Loukas**, Dept. of Anatomical Sciences, Dean of Research, School of Medicine, St George's University School of Medicine, Grenada
4. **Dr Penelope Hansen**, retired Professor of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

CAAM-HP at its meeting on October 11-12, 2013 considered and accepted the report by the *ad hoc* assessment team.

**Decision:** CAAM-HP noted the areas of compliance with its standards but cognisant of the many areas of substantial non-compliance particularly in the area of clinical training, determined that it was unable to accord accreditation to the MD programme. Avalon University is expected to address the issues flagged in CAAM-HP's letter and in the site visit report and reapply for accreditation within two years.