



ACCREDITATION GURU, INC.

Prepare for Greatness

ACCREDITING BODY	Association for Experiential Education (AEE)	CARF International	Council on Accreditation (COA)	The Joint Commission
Focus of Standards	Ethical, risk management, and treatment standards	Improved service outcomes, satisfaction of the persons served, and quality service delivery.	Designed to promote an organization's capacity to fulfill its mission. The standards address both administrative and service delivery practices.	Important patient, individual, resident care and organization functions that are essential to providing safe, high quality care.
Website	www.aee.org	www.carf.org	www.coanet.com	www.jointcommission.org
OVERVIEW				
Organizations Accredited	All adventure and outdoor behavioral healthcare programs	Accredits individual programs as well as the entire organization	Accredits all programs/services provided by organization	Accredits all programs/services provided by organization
Accreditation Timeline	9-24 months	12-15 months	12-18 months	6-9 months
Preparation Process	Submission of Self Assessment Study (SAS)	Self-evaluation recommended	Submission of self-study required	Self-evaluation recommended
Initial Accreditation	On-site visit and Program Response Report	On-site survey	Site visit	On-site survey
Compliance Track Record	None	6 months	6 months	None
PROCESS				
Application Timeline	Apply when ready for on-site visit within 5-9 months	Apply when ready for on-site survey within 3-4 months	Apply when ready for on-site survey within 9 months or more	Apply when ready for on-site survey within 12 months or less
Access to Standards	Free digital PDF copy for members (for purchase by non-members)	Purchase standards manual on CARF website	Free access to standards on COA website (https://coanet.org/standards/)	Free 90 days access to online manual of standards prior to application.
SUPPORT PROVIDED				
Accreditation Support	Council Liaison	Dedicated resource specialist and Customer Connect portal	Dedicated Accreditation Coordinator and MyCOA portal	Dedicated account executive and TJC CONNECT® portal
FEES ASSOCIATED				
General Costs*	Application fee and accreditation fee	On-site survey fee and purchase of manuals	Accreditation and site visit fees	Annual and on-site survey fees
Application Fee	Yes	Yes	No	No application fee, but \$1700 deposit is required (deposit applied to fees)
*Fee information can be obtained by contacting each accrediting body directly				
MAINTENANCE AND RE-ACCREDITATION				
Duration of Accreditation	3, 5 or 10 years	1 or 3 years	4 years	3 years
Mid-Cycle Process	Annual Report and SAS	Annual Conformance to Quality Reports and compliance attestation	Annual Report	Access to electronic tool recommended to access continuing compliance