AEI Standards and Criteria for Accreditation
Overview of 2021 Revisions

The goals of the 2021 revisions were to reduce redundancy and clarify intent. This resulted in what is primarily a reorganization of the current Standards. Please use this document as a quick reference and orientation to the revisions.

Summary of Changes:

- While there aren't any new Standards per say, the original Standards were reorganized which resulted in five Standards as opposed to four.
- Only one new Criterion has been added – Criterion 5.2: Annual Compliance Reports.
- Minor changes were made to most Criteria. In some instances, the documentation required to demonstrate compliance was also changed. The required documentation is now stated in the Standards Manual.
- Requirements for Comprehensive and Focused accreditation are now incorporated into one set of Standards. The differences in the requirements are noted in the language.

Original Standards	Revised Standards
Standard I - Learners and Scope of the Educational Programs	Standard 1 – Personnel
Standard II – Curriculum Development, Delivery of Effective Education, and Assessment	Standard 2 – Governance and Budget
Standard III – Administration, Management, and Governance	Standard 3 – Learners and Educational Resources
Standard IV – Advancement of the Field	Standard 4 – Educational Methodology
N/A	Standard 5 – Advancement of the Field

Accreditation Requirements

Original Criteria	Revised Criteria
Criterion 1.1: Learners	Criterion 3.2: Learners Added new learner groups: Learner groups may include: • Residents **and fellows** from any discipline • Health profession students • Patients and families Also added "Long-Term Follow-Up" as a column in the "Assessment" section. This new data will now need to be tracked by AEIs. The "List of Activities" was also updated to reflect these changes.
Criterion 1.2: Scope of Educational Programs	Criterion 4.3: Domains of Education • Renamed this Criterion • Added clarifying language • Expanded definitions of cognitive, psychomotor, and affective • While evidence of team training is still required for Comprehensive Institutes, it is now separated from the domains.
Criterion 1.3: Accreditation	Criterion 3.1: Accreditation No changes.
Criterion 2.1.1: Curriculum Development	Criterion 4.1: Curriculum Added clarifying language as well as a new requirement: • At least two new curricula must be developed during each 5-year accreditation term. Editing the following requirements: • Evidence of an original curriculum is no longer required for Comprehensive Institutes. New curricula can be original *or* adapted from more standardized curricula. • The Standards used to reference 5 steps of curriculum development; now only 4

	are referenced because the following two steps were combined:
	    o Use of effective education and training methods
	    o Selection or creation of relevant education and training materials

Criterion 2.1.2: Curriculum Development	No longer exists, combined with Criterion 4.1 above
Criterion 2.2.1: Resources for Delivery of Effective Education	Criterion 4.5: Faculty Development Renamed this Criterion and added clarifying language.
Criterion 2.2.2: Resources for Delivery of Effective Education	Criterion 4.2: Selection of Educational Methods and Models Renamed this Criterion and added clarifying language.
Criterion 2.3: Assessment of Effectiveness of Education	Criterion 4.4: Assessment • Renamed Criterion • Added clarifying language • Now require that some learner assessments must occur at least 3-months after completion
Criterion 3.1: Space Requirements	Criterion 3.3: Space Requirements No changes.

Criterion 3.2.1: Education Institute Director	Criterion 1.1: Education Institute Director
	
	Added the following requirements:
	The Education Institute Director's CV must demonstrate the following educational qualifications:
	• The person is an MD/DO, and if not an MD/DO, a master or doctorate in education or a healthcare-related field is required and,
	• At least one of the following:
	    o Experience using simulation as an educational technique
	    o Experience developing healthcare education content
	    o Background in educational research

Criterion 3.2.2: Education Institute Surgical Director	Criterion 1.2: Education Institute Surgical Director Removed the following requirements: The Education Institute Surgical Director must: • Demonstrate a commitment to surgical education • Be responsible for reporting to the Steering Committee or Advisory Board assessment data related to the surgical education and training programs of the AEI Added language: • Former AEI Simulation Fellows with Associate FACS designation are eligible to serve as the Surgical Director.
Criterion 3.2.3: Administrative and Support Staff	Criterion 1.3: Administrative and Support Staff Removed the following requirements: Administrative and support staff perform the following duties: • Serving as a liaison between the Institute's Director and outside entities • Ordering supplies • Acquisition of the assessment data related to Criterion 2.3 • Conduct ongoing inventories of supplies, simulators, equipment, and make recommendations for the acquisition of new supplies • Organize resources • Ensure the safe operation of the AEI through appropriate use of safety and policies & procedures manuals • Set-up and take-down of skills stations as required Added a requirement: • Administrative and support staff are responsible for daily operations of the simulation center Edited language: • Administrative and support staff **assist** with preparation and documentation of CME activities for courses and participants **(when offered)**

Criterion 3.3: Device Inventory	Criterion 3.4: Device Inventory Added language: Education Institutes must list the necessary devices **for their existing and planned curricula** and have the support to use them effectively to meet their learners' and curricular needs.
Criterion 3.4: Financial Resources	Criterion 2.2: Ongoing Financial Resources and Support Renamed Criterion and added language: • Budget deficits of 25% or more must be explained and supported in the document and tables.
Criterion 3.5: Mission Statement	Criterion 2.1: Statement of Purpose Now refer to mission statement as "statement of purpose."
Criterion 3.6: Steering Committee or Advisory Board	Criterion 2.3: AEI Oversight Committee Now refer to "Steering Committee" and Advisory Board" to "AEI Oversight Committee." Added three requirements: The AEI Oversight Committee: • Maintains authority over the curricula offerings by managing, supervising, monitoring, modifying, and adding curricula to meet the needs of learners • Reviews ACS accreditation requirements and determines if the Standards are continuously being met by all entities participating/using the simulation center. • Meets at least twice each calendar year. Minutes must document each meeting.
Criterion 3.7: Organizational Structure	Criterion 2.4: Organizational Structure Now references the AEI Oversight Committee instead of the Steering Committee/Advisory Board as described in Criterion 2.3.

Criterion 4.1: Research or Scholarly Activities in Simulation-Based Education	Criterion 5.1: Research or Scholarly Activities in Simulation-Based Education No changes. Still not applicable for Focused Institutes.
Criterion 4.2: Involvement in the Consortium of ACS-accredited Education Institutes	Criterion 5.3: Involvement in the Consortium of ACS-accredited Education Institutes Moved the requirement of annual reports to its own Criterion – Criterion 5.2 – otherwise no changes.
N/A – new Criterion, not in original Standards	Criterion 5.2: Annual Compliance Reports Added this Criterion which asks AEIs to attest to completing the annual compliance report during each year of its accreditation term.