

**2024 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**RESOLUTION – REVISING RESOLUTION 491**

LETTER ASSIGNED: C    TITLE: Reports to be Published Must Be Sanctioned and Approved by House of Delegates or Board of Trustees

SOURCE: AOA Board of Trustees

STATUS: Referred to House of Delegates

DATE: June 13, 2024    TIME: 2:00pm CT

---

1    WHEREAS, the House of Delegates or the Board of Trustees of the American Optometric  
2    Association in the interim between meetings of the House of Delegates, are the bodies to  
3    declare the general policy of the Association; and

4

5    WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education is the agency of the  
6    Association charged with the task of setting standards for and evaluating and accrediting  
7    optometric educational programs to assure students and the public the highest quality of  
8    optometric education; and

9

10    WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education performs quasi-public  
11    functions and operates under a duty to protect the public interest; and

12

13    WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education must be able to demonstrate  
14    its autonomy in all aspects of its accreditation activities, including but not limited to the  
15    promulgation and revision of accreditation standards, the establishment and maintenance of  
16    policies and procedures governing its functions, and the decisions concerning the  
17    accreditation status of programs; now therefore be it

18

19    RESOLVED, that no Group, Center, Commission, Section, Project Team, Committee, or other

20 entity of the American Optometric Association shall publish or otherwise disseminate any  
21 report, paper, or other document of any kind purporting to contain any statement or  
22 declaration of policy without having first obtained House of Delegates or Board of Trustees  
23 approval of the policy, unless such Group, Center, Commission, Section, Project Team,  
24 Committee or other entity has previously been authorized to issue such statements or  
25 declarations by the House of Delegates or Board of Trustees; and be it further

26

27 RESOLVED, that the deliberations and reports of the Accreditation Council on Optometric  
28 Education relative to the programs or institutions which they evaluate are confidential, and  
29 reports or data relative to these individual programs or institutions may be published or  
30 disseminated with the consent of the program or institution concerned but without having  
31 first obtained the approval of the House of Delegates or Board of Trustees; and be it further

32

33 RESOLVED, that the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall not publish any  
34 manual or guidebook purporting to contain any statement of policy or rules of procedure  
35 without having first provided interested individuals, groups, and institutions, including the  
36 Board of Trustees, with advance notice of the proposed policies or procedures and an  
37 adequate opportunity to comment on the substance of such policies or procedures; ~~and be it~~  
38 ~~further.~~

39

40 ~~RESOLVED, that the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education shall not publish any~~  
41 ~~manual or guidebook purporting to contain any statement of policy without having first~~  
42 ~~submitted the same to the Board of Trustees for confirmation that the proposed policy is~~  
43 ~~within its authority as set forth in the Bylaws of this Association and is within its scope and~~  
44 ~~function as set forth in the Scope and Function Manual.~~

Deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~. Additions are shown in underline.

**THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS YOU CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION.**

**EXPLANATION:** The change will result in:

- (1) elimination of risk to the ACOE's USDE and/or CHEA recognition status;
- (2) confirmation of the integrity of the ACOE's authority to establish policies and procedures;
- (3) improved speed to implement policy and procedure changes; and
- (4) elimination of redundant oversight, as ACOE authority is already proscribed by AOA Bylaws, the AOA-ACOE Memorandum of Understanding, and USDE and CHEA requirements.

**POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: NONE.