

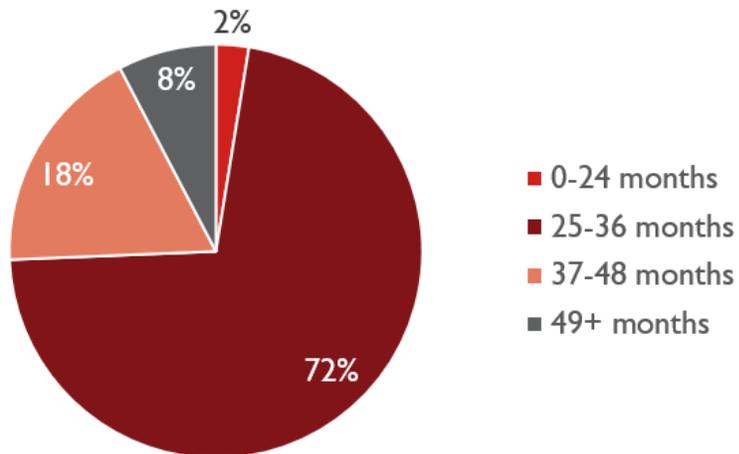
Time to Accreditation

How long does it take from the date of the application's acceptance to the date of the Council's official decision?

The review process for first-time accreditation is approximately three years, though it may be abbreviated, in consultation with CEPH staff, if special circumstances exist. An extension of the applicant period may also be requested if the school or program needs more time to prepare for the accreditation review.

In 2021, CEPH staff reviewed time-to-accreditation data for 78 schools and programs that had applications accepted between June 2010 and October 2017 and accreditation decisions made by November 2020. The following summary statistics are based on this data set:

Time from Applicant Status to Accredited Status



Median No. of Months	36
Average No. of Months	37
Max No. of Months	60
Min No. of Months	24

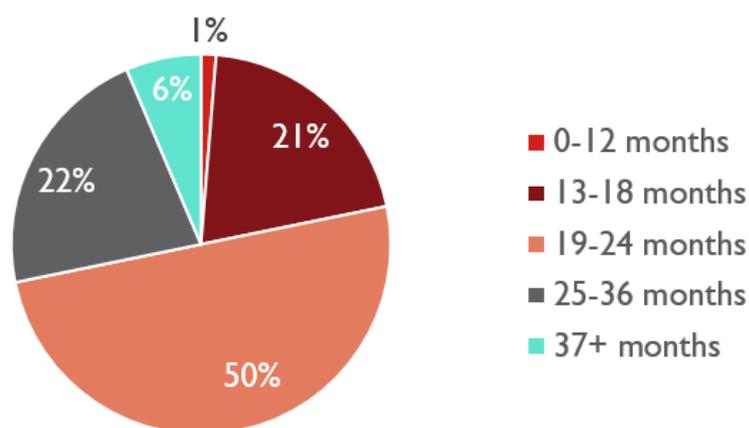
How long after my application is accepted will my preliminary self-study be due?

You have up to two years to undertake a self-study and submit an acceptable self-study document, although you may elect to submit it earlier. If an earlier date is selected, you must negotiate an earlier review schedule with CEPH staff. An on-site visit by a team of peer reviewers will follow the submission of the self-study by approximately five months.

Two years to undertake a self-study seems like a long time. Do many schools and programs complete it more quickly?

The self-study can be completed in fewer than two years; however, CEPH’s experience with applicants over the last decade shows that it typically does take an average of 26 months. The preliminary self-study is used to determine whether there is an adequate basis on which to conduct an accreditation site visit. An insufficient preliminary self-study will cause the site visit to be postponed, so it is important to submit the strongest documentation possible.

Time from Applicant Status to Submission of Preliminary Self-Study



Median No. of Months	24
Average No. of Months	26
Max No. of Months	48
Min No. of Months	12

For a school or program seeking reaccreditation, how long does the review process take?

CEPH staff notify schools and programs approximately two years before they are due for the next regular accreditation evaluation. This timeline provides ample time to plan and implement a self-study process and carry out the other procedural requirements of the review. From the date of submission of the preliminary self-study to the date of the Council’s official decision is approximately 10 to 14 months.

How many applicants request an extension of their application period?

The Council approved 21 requests for an extension of applicant status between 2010 and 2019. An extension gives an applicant one additional year to submit an acceptable preliminary self-study document.

Does every applicant achieve accreditation eventually?

CEPH has not denied accreditation to any applicant; however, some applicants have voluntarily withdrawn their application before an accreditation decision could be made. Also, many applicants have received accreditation on a later schedule than they initially projected, either because of voluntary requests for extension or because of initial rejection of the preliminary self-study.

In addition to conducting a self-study, what else happens in the time between acceptance of an application and a final Council decision?

Please see the example timeline below.

