

## NAASC Position on Competency vs. Teaching Methodology

It is the position of the National Association of Ayurvedic Schools and Colleges (NAASC) that all schools of Ayurvedic Medicine focus on the competency of their graduates rather than adhere to a uniform prescribed methodology.

On July 20th, 2020, member schools of NAASC voted unanimously on the following motion. "That the National Association of Ayurvedic Schools and Colleges (NAASC) draft a position letter to be placed on its website stating that the National Association of Ayurvedic Schools and Colleges supports schools in their focus on the competency of its graduates and NOT 1) the number of hours a program offers, nor 2) the number of in-person hours a program offers, nor 3) a particular method and/or means of delivery (classroom, on-line, apprenticeship)

John Immel

PRESIDENT

Dr. Lina Thakar

SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Marc Halpern

ADVISOR

It is our position that a schools first responsibility is to prepare their students to be competent in their subject of study. NAASC supports competency-based delivery of education as Ayurveda schools in the USA are unique and their students too are unique NAASC does not support the idea that brick and mortar education is better or worse than on-line education, mentorships or any other system of learning. Along with this, we do not support schools to comply with an arbitrary number of required hours of study of any subject. Unnecessary regulation of teaching methodology without evidence of improved outcomes places a great burden on both students and the schools creating a lose-lose situation.

Quality education leads to the competency of the student. The quality of a students education depends upon many factors including: The quality of the materials used in the program, the quality of the instruction, the creativity of the institution, and many more such factors. One student can study for 5000 hours in a poor program. Another student could study for 1000 hours in a great program. Hours are not a very good measure of competency.

We at the National Association of Ayurvedic Schools and Colleges (NAASC) honor and recognize all forms of education. We advocate for evaluative measures based upon competency. We also recognize that uniform competencies have not yet been establish within the Ayurvedic profession. Hence, at the present time, each school is establishing its own required competencies for graduation. We also recognize that the schools must come together to establish greater uniformity in defining minimum competencies. It is toward this end that we will focus our future efforts.

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NAASC MEMBER SHCOOLS

New World Ayurveda  
Florida Ayurveda Academy -  
Sai Ayurveda  
Bodhananda Vedic Institute (BVI)  
California College of Ayurveda

Shakti School  
Ayurveda Academy of Integrative Wellness  
Joyful Belly Ayurveda  
Sevanti Institute  
AYU Academy