



# 2024 Accreditation Standards

CMSM Assembly  
July 30, 2024



## NUMBERS AT-A-GLANCE

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**126**

INSTITUTES  
ACCREDITED

**83**

INSTITUTES  
ACCREDITED UNDER 2020 STANDARDS

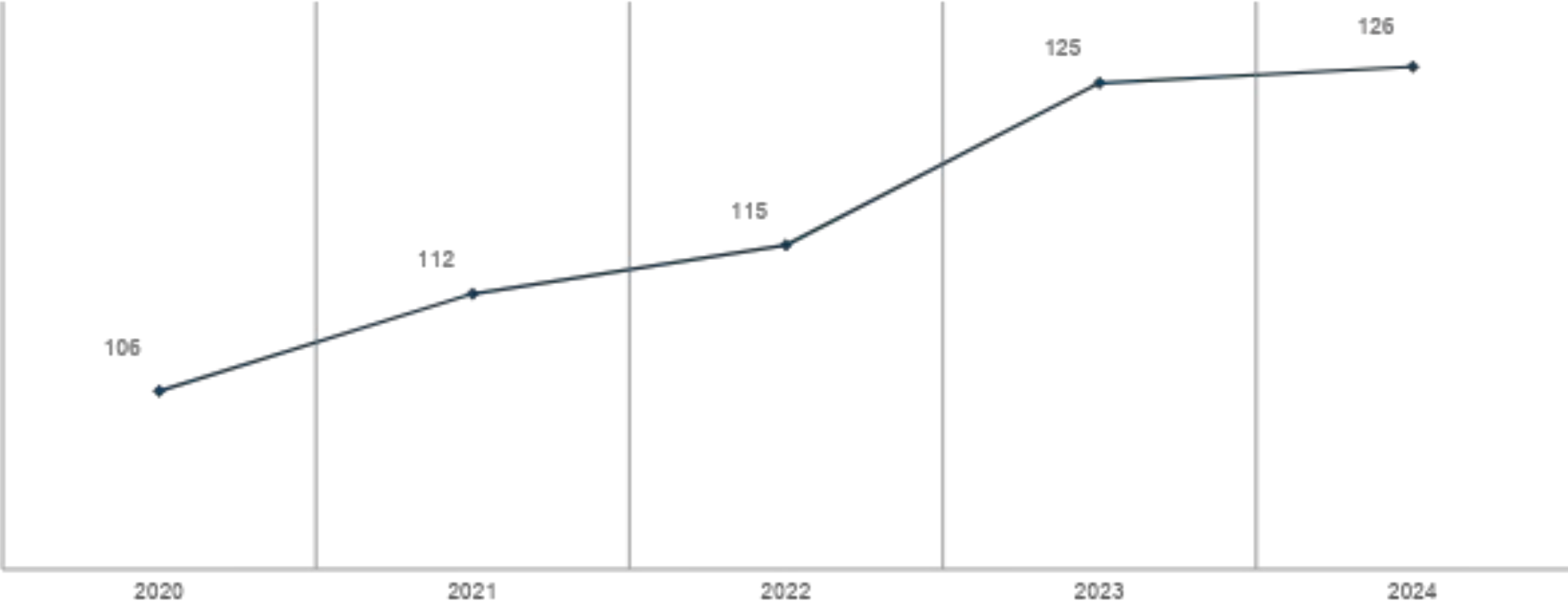
**31**

INSTITUTES  
IN PROCESS OF REACCREDITATION

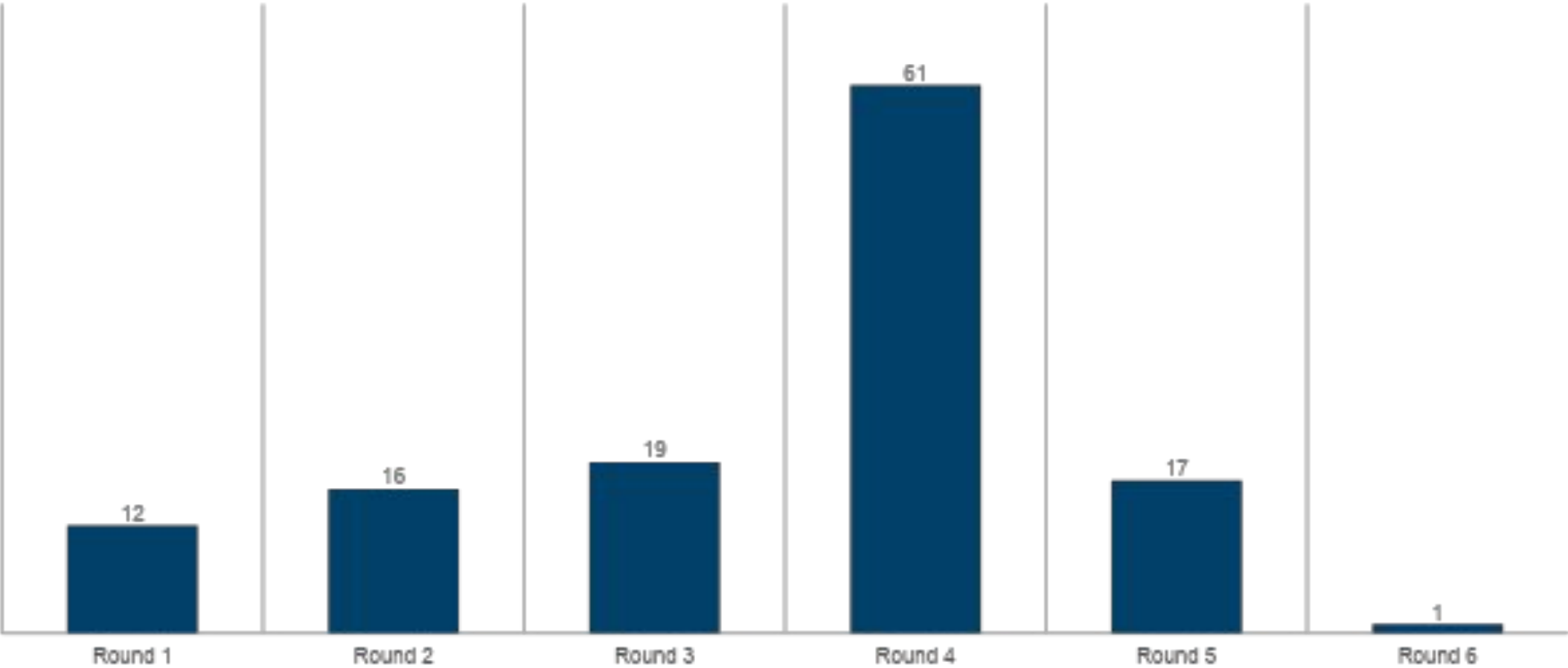
**3**

INSTITUTES  
IN PROCESS OF INITIAL ACCREDITATION

# NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES ACCREDITED (2020-PRESENT)



# NUMBER OF INSTITUTES BY ACCREDITATION ROUND



# UPDATES

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**1** NEW  
REQUIREMENT

**2** UPDATED  
REQUIREMENT

**3** TEXT UPDATE



**NEW REQUIREMENTS**

## STANDARD 1, REQUIREMENT 6

The Institute will not enter into confidentiality agreements unless requested by the survivor.

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New requirement

Previously a clarification

Rationale: This is explicit in the *Charter* and is standard practice.

## STANDARD 9, REQUIREMENT 4

The Institute maintains documentation of training completion for all Members in formation and those who serve in public ministry.

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New requirement

Previously a clarification

Rationale: Institutes need this documentation to verify they are meeting the training requirements; will also serve them should a diocese consider accepting other trainings.

Resource: Best practices for maintaining documentation



## STANDARD 16, REQUIREMENT 8

The Institute ensures review board members receive ongoing training relevant to their role.

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New requirement

Rationale: Membership turnover, changes to Church requirements, etc.

Resource: CMSM resources for review board training



**UPDATED REQUIREMENTS**

## STANDARD 3, REQUIREMENT 4

The Institute has a written transition plan to ensure standards are maintained and critical information is not lost following changes in leadership, which should include

- A review of all allegations of sexual abuse and boundary violations from the previous five years;
- A review of all current Safety Plans, including risk evaluations, since the last Accreditation;
- Information about the Review Board, including the primary contact; and
- The status of the Institute in the Accreditation process as well as the expiration of the current Accreditation.

Updated requirement

Addition of review board information to written transition plan

Rationale: Drift from Review Board practices following leadership changes.

Resource: Sample Transition Plan

## STANDARD 7, REQUIREMENT 6

The Institute has a written policy or protocol support and accountability for religious from other provinces or Institutes or diocesan priests who are residing in a house or community of the Institute, which includes sharing the Institute's policies for boundaries with minors.

Updated requirement

Addition of sharing policies with visiting religious or diocesan priests

Rationale: Providing policies communicates their importance and sets the visitor up for success during their stay.

Resource: Sample policy

## STANDARD 9, REQUIREMENT 1

The Institute requires all Members in formation and those who serve in public ministry, even those who only occasionally serve in public ministry, have received training on the following foundational abuse prevention topics:

- a. The Institute's policies for preventing and responding to sexual abuse of minors;
- b. How to maintain appropriate boundaries with minors;
- c. Facts about sexual abuse
- d. Information on how to make a report to the civil authorities of known or suspected sexual abuse of a child who is currently a minor in the jurisdictions where the Member is assigned;
- e. Information on recognizing and responding to boundary violations or other inappropriate behaviors with minors;
- f. Information about child sexual abuse material, including its nature as a criminal offense and as a grave delict considered under the Motu Proprio "Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela (SST)"; and
- g. Information regarding abuse of vulnerable persons, including its nature as an offense under the Motu proprio, "Vos estis lux mundi."

Updated requirement

Updated content requirements; most programs will easily meet this

Rationale: Ensure alignment with existing industry standards

Resource: List of educational programs

## STANDARD 10, REQUIREMENT 4

The Institute ensures the following when a Member has an egregious or repeated boundary violations with a minor or when a minor is known to be in danger:

- a) The situation is presented to the review board;
- b) An intervention plan is implemented that outlines how the boundary violations with minors will be interrupted; and
- c) The intervention plan is monitored for compliance.

Updated requirement

Updated types of boundary violations that should be presented to the review board

Rationale: Some boundary violations are more serious and require intervention for the safety of all.

Resource: Guide for determining risk level of boundary violation

## STANDARD 11, REQUIREMENT 1

The Institute's written protocols for responding to reports and allegations of sexual abuse include:

- a) Responding to individuals who report sexual abuse of a minor;
- b) Responding to individuals who allege they have been sexually abused as a minor;
- c) Responding to individuals whose case is part of a larger legal process;
- d) Responding to Members who have been accused;
- e) Complying with reporting requirements;
- f) Protecting the rights of all those involved;
- g) Conducting investigations; and
- h) Working with review boards.

Updated requirement

Written protocols to include how to respond to individuals whose case is part of the legal process

Rationale: The current majority of cases we see are of this nature; guidance is needed to manage them as consistently as possible.

Resource: Sample written protocols

## STANDARD 16, REQUIREMENT 2

The Institute ensures the review board consists of at least five members with diverse, relevant professional experience with no more than two Members of the Institute.

Updated requirement

Review board members should have diverse and relevant professional experience

Rationale: It is important to ensure diversity of thought and competency to address these complex issues.

Resource: CMSM Review Board Guide



## STANDARD 16, REQUIREMENT 7

The Institute ensures review board members receive foundational training relevant to their role which includes familiarity with the following documents:

- a. Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
- b. Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons;
- c. Motu Proprio, “Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela (SST)”;
- d. Motu proprio, “Vos estis lux mundi;”
- e. 2002 CMSM Statement of the Assembly;
- f. Institute’s Policies; and
- g. Praesidium Accreditation Standards.

Updated requirement

Formalize foundational training for review board members

Rationale: With the natural attrition of these boards, it is critical to ensure all members understand key concepts and frameworks within which to make recommendations.

Resource: CMSM Review Board Guide, CMSM training for Review Boards



**STANDARD  
18**

## STANDARD 18, REQUIREMENT 1

The Institute ensures Members on Safety Plans are not assigned to an ecclesiastical office, involved in ecclesiastical ministry, or involved in positions that allow access to minors. The following are not appropriate assignments or activities:

- a. Ministry in a parish;
- b. Ministry in a school or other youth-serving organization; and
- c. Ministry that involves one-on-one contact with vulnerable populations as defined in *Vos estis lux mundi*.

New requirement

Previously a clarification

Rationale: When choosing assignments for Members on a Safety Plan, Institutes must show that they are finding meaningful assignments for the Member, while also ensuring that those assignments are safe for everyone.

Resource: CMSM Review Board Guide

## STANDARD 18, REQUIREMENT 2

The Institute ensures any assignments or activities for a Member on a Safety Plan are determined in consultation with the Review Board and provides the Review Board with the information needed to make an informed recommendation, including, at minimum:

- a. A description of the Member's role and responsibilities in any proposed ministry and/or activity;
- b. A description of who the Member may be in contact with as part of the ministry, activity, or assignment;
- c. A description of the type and level of supervision provided in the ministry, activity, or assignment and by whom.

Updated requirement

Formalize review board's role in determining assignments and activities for a Member on a Safety Plan

Rationale: It is important to evaluate and discuss assignments of Members on Safety Plans in depth to avoid exposing the Members to unnecessary risks.

Resource: Sample Guidelines for Review Boards

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **IF WE START THE PROCESS BEFORE THE NEW STANDARDS ARE IN EFFECT, DO WE HAVE TO RESTART?**

No, if you sign the contract and before the new Standards are in effect (~August 1, 2024), you will continue with the 2020 version. Praesidium will reach out approximately 12 months prior to your expiration to restart the process.

## **WHAT RESOURCES WILL PRAESIDIUM OR CMSM PROVIDE?**

Praesidium has numerous sample policies and guidelines available to you, and CMSM has an entire webpage with Safeguarding videos and other resources.

## **WILL THE SCOPE OF THE STANDARDS CHANGE TO INCLUDE VULNERABLE ADULTS?**

The scope will continue to be limited to minors, although some requirements might reference vulnerable adults.

## **WHEN SHOULD WE BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THESE NEW STANDARDS?**

Unless you are currently in the process of accreditation, the idea is for you to begin implementation of the new standards sooner rather than later, so that everything is in place when it is time for your reaccreditation.

## **WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS AFTER TODAY?**

You can contact the Praesidium team at [Accreditation@Praesidiuminc.com](mailto:Accreditation@Praesidiuminc.com)

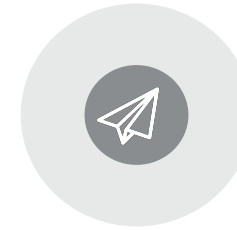
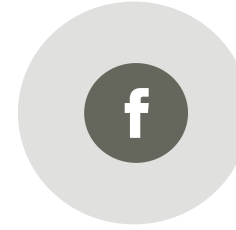
## **OUR PROVINCE IS MERGING WITH ANOTHER – HOW DOES THAT IMPACT OUR ACCREDITATION?**

Please contact Praesidium to discuss this.



## STAY IN TOUCH

[ccreditation@PraesidiumInc.com](mailto:ccreditation@PraesidiumInc.com)



PRAESIDIUM