



Date: January 15, 2020
To: Commission and Other Interested Parties
From: Dr. Kevin Bontenbal, Policy Committee Chair
Gohar Momjian, ACCJC Vice President
Subject: Policy Changes Submitted to the Commission

The Policy Committee oversees the development of new policies and changes to existing policies. Commission procedures generally provide that proposed policy changes and/or new policies be considered by the Commission in a two-meeting process. At the first meeting, new policies/policy changes are discussed, and modifications are made as appropriate (first reading). These policies are then widely circulated to ACCJC's member institutions and other interested parties for review and comment before presentation at the next scheduled Commission meeting for second reading and adoption. The Policy Committee will forward relevant comments to the Commission for deliberation during the policy's second-read, and prior to Commission adoption.

When changes are needed in order to align with federal regulations, or for other extenuating circumstances, policy changes can be made by the Commission outside the normal two-meeting process. If these changes are made by Commission action between regularly scheduled meetings, the changes are communicated to the field, including the reason for immediate action by the Commission.

Items for Second Reading

The Policy Committee received no public comments on the following policies, made no changes since the first read in June 2019, and moved to forward them to the Commission for its second read.

1. **Revision: Policy on Monitoring Institutional Performance** - this policy has been revised to align with language in the federal regulations to monitor annual student achievement. In addition, the policy limits the definition of significant headcount growth as a 50% increase in one year consistent with the federal definition for significant growth.
2. **Revision: Policy on the Rights and Responsibilities of the Commission and Member Institutions** – language has been added to clarify the timeline for notifying the public about third party comments, and the handling and usage of third party comments in the peer review process.
3. **Revision: Policy on Public Disclosure and Confidentiality in the Accreditation Process** – deleted the section requiring the Commission to disclose upon request the number of complaints against an institution; in addition, outdated and redundant language has been deleted from the policy.

4. **Revision: Policy on Commission Actions on Institutions** – the revised policy language supports the Commission to grant Initial Accreditation to applicants for Candidacy if the institution demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Commission’s accreditation standards and policies at the time of the Candidacy review. Added language also explains that applicants for Initial Accreditation need to address only the Standards found not to be in compliance at the time of the Candidacy review, rather than preparing another Institutional Self Evaluation Report, if their application is submitted within two years of Candidacy.

Items for First Reading

The Policy Committee moved to forward the following policies to the Commission for its first reading.

1. **New: Policy on Competency Based Education (CBE)** – this is a new policy which provides general information on competency based education programs, federally recognized approaches to CBE, Title IV funding requirements, guidance to institutions seeking to offer CBE, and ACCJC’s responsibility to evaluate an institution’s offering of CBE programs.
2. **Revision: Policy on Institutional Degrees and Credits** – deleted the section on direct assessment programs to eliminate redundancy since the topic will be included and expanded upon in the proposed new Competency Based Education policy.
3. **Revision: Policy on Direct Assessment of Learning** – policy is being renamed to Policy on Credit for Prior Learning which more accurately describes the topic of the policy, and language is clarified in the headings that the policy elements concern credit for prior learning.

Policy Deletion

The Policy Committee moved to forward the following policy to the Commission for deletion.

1. **Policy on Award of Credit** – this policy is redundant and duplicates information contained in the Policy on Institutional Degrees and Credits.