

## Communication in the Accreditation Process Procedures

*Effective Date: March 1, 2023*

### Contents

- I. Purpose
- II. Procedures for Communication between the Commission and Institutions
- III. Procedures for Sharing Information About the Commission
- IV. Procedures for Sharing Information About Member Institutions
- V. Procedures for Notification of Accreditation Actions
- VI. Procedures for Communication with Government, Other Quality Assurance Agencies, and Related Entities
- VII. Procedures for Confidentiality
- VIII. Definitions

### I. Purpose

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE or the Commission) seeks to ensure transparent and clear communication about the accreditation process with its constituencies (member and applicant institutions, government, other quality assurance agencies, the higher education community, and the public). The purpose of these procedures is to implement the Commission's *Communication in the Accreditation Process Policy*.

### II. Procedures for Communication between the Commission and Institutions

- A. The Commission staff shall establish appropriate and clear lines of communication with member (candidate and accredited) and applicant institutions to ensure that the institution understands the Commission's expectations for all accreditation activities.
- B. The institution will communicate with the Commission in English, both orally and in writing. Because of the multi-level accreditation decision-making process, accreditation materials must be provided in English.
- C. The Commission will communicate with individuals designated as key contacts, who are considered authorized representatives of the member institution as defined in section VIII.
- D. The institution will designate and maintain key contacts (Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Academic Officer (CAO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), and Portal Delegate in the secure MSCHE portal. The institution may also designate a specific individual to receive information about invoices in the key contacts area of the portal.
- E. The Commission will consider the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/President to be the official representative of the institution and will direct general

communications to the CEO. The Commission will consider the ALO to be the primary point of contact and will copy the ALO on official communications. In exceptional circumstances, the Commission reserves the right to communicate with the Chair of the institution's governing body at its discretion.

- F. The institution will update and maintain accurate key contact data in the secure MSCHE portal for each authorized representative of the member institution as needed but at least once a year during the Annual Institutional Update (AIU). The email for each key contact must be the individual's official institutional email and not a generic email such as info@, president@, or provost@.
- G. The institution's CEO (President) will appoint an Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) to serve as the primary point of contact with Commission staff and as a resource to the institution on accreditation issues in accordance with the *Mid-Atlantic Region Commission on Higher Education Bylaws*. The Commission expects the institution to abide by *The Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO): Roles and Responsibilities*. One of the ALO's responsibilities is to ensure the accuracy of key contact data in the secure MSCHE portal for each authorized representative of the member institution.
- H. The Commission will assign a Commission staff liaison (vice president), with no known conflicts of interest with the institution, to serve as the primary point of contact with each member and applicant institution. The Commission staff liaison will communicate with key contacts and other institutional leaders about accreditation issues, consult with the institution during accreditation activities, conduct visits to the institution on specified occasions, and answer questions about MSCHE policies and procedures as requested.
- I. The institution will update the Commission of major developments through the Commission staff liaison.
- J. The institution will compile accreditation materials in a secure and confidential manner in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
  - 1. The institution will submit only those documents which are required for review or as requested by the Commission.
  - 2. The institution will omit personally identifiable and other sensitive personal information in submissions. If documents are considered pertinent and necessary for the review, the institution will redact personally identifiable information prior to submission. The institution may designate business information within its submissions that it believes would be exempt from public disclosure under applicable federal or state public records laws and regulations.

### **III. Procedures for Sharing Information about the Commission**

- A. The Commission will maintain and share information about itself with the public

through its website ([www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)).

- B. The Commission will maintain and make available to the public the Commission's standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and federal compliance requirements, which explain the accreditation process and are used to determine accreditation actions, in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR §602.23(a)(2) and (3).
- C. The Commission will maintain and make available to the public the names, academic and professional qualifications, and relevant employment and organizational affiliations of the following, in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR §602.23(a)(5):
  - 1. The members of policy and decision-making bodies (the Commission); and
  - 2. The principal administrative staff.
- D. The Commission will publish news items, issue press releases, and/or share information regarding the review of, or major changes in, its standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, and policy and procedures.

#### **IV. Procedures for Sharing Information about Member Institutions**

- A. The Commission will maintain and share information about member institutions with the public through its website as described in this section.
- B. The Commission will publish an online Institution Directory of candidate and accredited institutions in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR §602.23(a)(1) and (4).
  - 1. The Institution Directory will provide institutional information that includes but is not limited to institution name, address, accreditation phase, accreditation status, the date candidate for accreditation status or accreditation was granted, and the year the Commission will next review the institution.
  - 2. The Institution Directory will also provide information about the institution's scope of accreditation and a history of the accreditation actions taken by the Commission. Accreditation actions are defined in the Commission's *Accreditation Actions Policy and Procedures*.
- C. The Commission will publish an official public statement on its website, called the Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS), regarding each institution's accreditation status and scope of accreditation. The SAS is a downloadable, printable statement for use by the institution to validate its accreditation status with external entities.
- D. The Commission will publish a schedule of upcoming reviews on its website to provide an opportunity for the public to submit third party comments about institutions under review. See the Commission's policy *Third Party Comments* for a description of how third-party comments are used in the accreditation process.

- E. The Commission will publicly disclose a list of the geographic areas of accrediting activities (the states and jurisdictions in which member institutions operate) in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.12(b)(1)*.
- F. The Commission may, at its discretion, publish news items, issue press releases, and share information regarding institutions.
- G. The Commission will direct any general inquiries to the institution.

**V. Procedures for Notification of Accreditation Actions**

- A. The institution is required to publicly disclose a non-compliance (warning, probation, show cause) and adverse (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation) accreditation actions within seven (7) calendar days of the date of receipt of the notification to all current and prospective students in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(b) and (e)*.
  - 1. The Commission provides procedures for this disclosure in the *Public Disclosures Policy and Procedures*.
  - 2. For a non-compliance or adverse action, the institution must use the following statement:

*[Institution name] is a[n] [accreditation phase] institution and a member of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) www.msche.org. [Institution name's] accreditation status is [Non-Compliance Warning/ Non-Compliance Probation/ Non-Compliance Show Cause/ Accreditation Withdrawn / Accreditation Denied]. The Commission's most recent action on the institution's accreditation status on [date] was to [warn or continue to warn the institution/ place on or continue probation/ issue or continue show cause/ deny accreditation/ withdraw accreditation / deny candidate for accreditation status / withdraw candidate for accreditation status]. MSCHE is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.*

- B. The Commission will provide official notification of accreditation actions to the institution no later than 30 calendar days after it takes an action in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26*.
  - 1. The Commission will send an email to the institution's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) to notify the institution that the action is available and viewable in the portal.
  - 2. The action notification is available in the secure MSCHE portal for the institution to view. Individuals designated as the institution's key contacts may log in to the portal at any time to view the action notification, which will be permanently retained in the institutional record.
  - 3. For non-compliance actions (warning, probation, show cause) and adverse actions (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation), the Commission will also mail a hardcopy of the action notification with delivery confirmation.
  - 4. The Commission will post a notification of non-compliance (warning, probation, show cause) or adverse action (to deny or withdraw candidate

- for accreditation status or accreditation) on the Institution Directory and the SAS which summarizes the reasons for the Commission's action in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(e)*.
5. The Commission will provide the institution an opportunity to submit a brief institutional statement regarding the non-compliance (warning, probation, show cause) or adverse action (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation). This statement is optional and must be submitted within 60 days of the action.
    - a. Instructions for submitting this statement will be provided in the action notification.
    - b. The Commission will post the institutional statement on the Institution Directory and the SAS within 60 calendar days of the date of the action in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(e)*.
    - c. The Commission will make the statement available to the public on its own website only. The Commission is not responsible for making this statement wherever else the institution's status may be posted publicly.
- C. The Commission will provide notification of accreditation actions to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate state or other licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies no later than 30 calendar days after it takes an action in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(a)(1-2)*.
1. For non-compliance actions (warning, probation, show cause) and adverse actions (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation), the Commission will provide notification to these entities at the same time as it notifies the institution of the action in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(b)*.
  2. The Commission will provide required notifications to the United States Department of Education (USDE) via the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs (DAPIP).
  3. The Commission will provide notification to State agencies, other licensing or authorizing agencies, and other appropriate accrediting agencies via email.
- D. The Commission will provide notification of accreditation actions to the public within one calendar day of notifying the institution in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(d)*.
1. The Commission will publicly disclose all accreditation actions organized by meeting date on its website.
  2. The Commission will publicly disclose a list of all non-compliance (warning, probation, show cause) and adverse actions (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation) (to deny or withdraw candidate for accreditation status or accreditation) on its website.
  3. The Commission will post all accreditation actions to the institution's

online SAS.

- E. The Commission will notify the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate State or other licensing or authorizing agency, the appropriate USDE recognized accrediting agencies, and upon request, the public, if a candidate or accredited institution decides to voluntarily surrender its accreditation status or lets its accreditation lapse, within 10 calendar days of the date of receipt of the notification from the institution in accordance with federal regulation *34 CFR § 602.26(f)(1) and (2)*.
1. The Commission will provide required notifications to the United States Department of Education (USDE) via the DAPIP system.
  2. The Commission will provide notification to State agencies, other licensing or authorizing agencies, and other appropriate accrediting agencies via email.
  3. The Commission considers an accreditation lapse to have occurred when an institution does not maintain membership responsibilities, including but not limited to, following Commission policies and procedures, completing required accreditation activities, or paying outstanding dues and/or fees.
  4. The Commission will require an institution that lets its accreditation lapse to follow the procedures for voluntary surrender of accreditation status in *Accreditation Review Cycle and Monitoring Policy and Procedures, Section V*.
  5. As an alternative to voluntary surrender, the Commission may, at its discretion, require an institution to submit a substantive change request form for a planned orderly institutional closure pursuant to the instructions provided in the *Substantive Change Policy, Procedures, and Guidelines*.
  6. If the institution does not comply and does not follow procedures for voluntary surrender or institutional closure, it will be placed in a non-compliance status for failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures.
- F. The Commission may respond to public inquiries about accreditation actions or it will direct them to the institution.

## **VI. Procedures for Communication with Government, Other Quality Assurance Agencies, and Related Entities**

- A. The Commission staff will establish appropriate and clear lines of communication with government or other jurisdictions, other quality assurance agencies, and identified related entities. See the Commission's *Government Agencies and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Policy and Related Entities Policy*.
- B. The Commission staff will notify liaisons and representatives from government, systems of higher education, or related entities about upcoming accreditation activities.
1. In consultation with the institution and the agency or related entity, the Commission will assist with coordinating the liaison's or representative's request to observe any on-site visit.

2. Any observer of an accreditation activity will agree to the *Statement of Ethical Conduct*, including a commitment to maintaining confidentiality, in accordance with the *Peer Evaluators Policy and Procedures*.
  3. The Commission will determine if the liaison or representative will be provided with access to accreditation materials in the secure MSCHE portal, at its discretion.
- C. In addition to the notification of accreditation actions, the Commission will report the following information to the USDE through the DAPIP system, in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.27:
- i. a list, updated annually, of its accredited and candidate institutions, provided electronically through the institution directory on the Commission's website;
  - ii. a summary of major accrediting activities during the previous year, if requested by the Secretary to carry out the Secretary's responsibilities related to this part;
  - iii. notification of any proposed change in policies, procedures, or standards that might alter its scope of recognition or compliance with the criteria for recognition;
  - iv. the name of any institution accredited by MSCHE that MSCHE has reason to believe is failing to meet its title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) program responsibilities or is engaged in fraud or abuse, along with the agency's reason for concern about the institution;
  - v. and, if the Secretary requests, information that may bear upon an accredited or candidate institution's compliance with its title IV, HEA program responsibilities, including the eligibility of the institution to participate in title IV, HEA programs.
- D. In accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.28(c), if the Commission grants candidate for accreditation status or initial accreditation or reaffirms the accreditation of an institution subject to the conditions in 1-4 below, the Commission will provide to the United States Secretary of Education within 30 days of its action, a thorough and reasonable explanation, consistent with its standards, why the action of the other body does not preclude the Commission's action.
1. A pending or final action brought by a State agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the State;
  2. A decision by a recognized agency to deny accreditation or candidate for accreditation status (preaccreditation);
  3. A pending or final action brought by a recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or candidate for accreditation status (preaccreditation); or
  4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency.
- E. The Commission will, upon request, share with other appropriate recognized

accrediting agencies and recognized State approval agencies information about the accreditation or candidate for accreditation status (preaccreditation) of an institution or program and any adverse actions it has taken against an accredited or candidate institution in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.28(e).

- F. In addition to the notification of accreditation actions, the Commission will report the following information to the USDE through the DAPIP system, in accordance with federal regulation 34 CFR § 602.27:
1. a list, updated annually, of its accredited and candidate institutions, provided electronically through the institution directory on the Commission's website;
  2. a summary of major accrediting activities during the previous year, if requested by the Secretary to carry out the Secretary's responsibilities related to this part;
  3. notification of any proposed change in policies, procedures, or standards that might alter its scope of recognition or compliance with the criteria for recognition;
  4. the name of any institution accredited by MSCHE that MSCHE has reason to believe is failing to meet its Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) program responsibilities or is engaged in fraud or abuse, along with the agency's reason for concern about the institution;
  5. and, if the Secretary requests, information that may bear upon an accredited or candidate institution's compliance with its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities, including the eligibility of the institution to participate in Title IV, HEA programs.
- G. The Commission reserves the right to communicate with other quality assurance agencies in order to share or obtain information necessary for the accreditation decision-making process so long as antitrust laws and regulations are followed.
- H. The Commission reserves the right to communicate with related entities in order to share or obtain information necessary for the accreditation decision-making process in accordance with the Commission's *Related Entities Policy and Procedures*.
1. The institution will provide appropriate contact information for a liaison or representative from the related entity with which the Commission may communicate.
  2. The Commission staff will copy the institution on all correspondence of record with the related entity.
  3. The Commission staff will retain correspondence of record with a related entity as part of the institutional record.

## **VII. Procedures for Confidentiality**

- A. The Commission staff will safeguard the confidentiality of discussions, conversations, accreditation materials, proposals for action, and the institutional record except as required by Commission policies or procedure, or applicable law.
1. The Commission staff will provide access to accreditation materials to

- Commission representatives for the sole purpose of accreditation decision-making.
2. The Commission staff will direct public inquiries to the institution.
- B. The Commission staff will require Commission representatives and observers of an accreditation activity to agree to the *Statement of Ethical Conduct*, including a commitment to maintaining confidentiality, in accordance with the *Peer Evaluators Policy and Procedures*.
1. Commission representatives and observers will use accreditation materials for the sole purpose of accreditation decision-making.
  2. Commission representatives and observers will ensure the proper standard of care of accreditation materials while they are in their possession.
  3. Commission representatives and observers will not share accreditation materials nor discuss proposals for action with anyone outside of the accreditation decision-making process.
  4. Commission representatives will not post information regarding accreditation activities on social media.
  5. Commission representatives and observers will not comment on a specific institution's accreditation activities to the media and will forward all inquiries from the media to the MSCHE Senior Director of Communications and Public Relations.
- C. The Commission will protect confidential information and the institutional record through any agreements with third party service providers. Third party service providers will sign confidentiality and non-disclosure statements.
- D. The Commission staff may be required to share otherwise confidential information in order to comply with a subpoena and/or court order. In such cases, the Commission may not be able to obtain prior consent from the institution. Consent is deemed waived by the institution in these circumstances.
- E. The Commission staff may be required to share otherwise confidential information with government or other agencies when requested by appropriate officials, including but not limited to governmental investigative inquiries and the process of renewing its own recognition with the USDE. Confidentiality is deemed waived by the institution in these circumstances.
- E. While the Commission is a non-profit organization and is not subject to state or federal public records laws and regulations, it does provide materials to other agencies that may be subject to public disclosure or document production requests. The Commission will make a good faith effort to identify and redact personally identifiable information and to identify and redact any business information that is otherwise exempt from disclosure.
- F. The Commission will make a good faith effort to compile information in a secure and confidential manner before releasing it to any external party in response to a request for

information.

1. The Commission will conduct due diligence to redact personally identifiable and other sensitive personal information in confidential records, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
  2. The Commission will make a good faith effort to submit only those documents which are required for review or as requested by appropriate officials.
  3. The Commission will prepare and transfer records in a secure manner and as required in the request.
- H. The Commission may determine that it is necessary to make pertinent information, including accreditation materials or information about the institution's accreditation status, available to the public to correct misleading information, at its discretion. Confidentiality is deemed waived by the institution in these circumstances.
- I. Accreditation materials belong to the institution and the institution may share or publish its own accreditation materials at any time in the process. However, the institution will protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information related to Commission representatives and will redact such information if the institution chooses to publish any accreditation materials.
- J. The Commission staff may use accreditation materials in training events with the prior consent of the institution.

### VIII. Definitions

The following definitions are used or inferred in this policy and/or procedures:

- A. Accreditation activities.** All activities (including but not limited to reviews, reports, visits) conducted by Commission representatives related to the institution's accreditation phase, accreditation status, or scope of accreditation occurring throughout the accreditation review cycle and during monitoring activities for a member (accredited or candidate), or pre-applicant or applicant institution.
- B. Accreditation lapse.** An occurrence when an institution does not maintain membership responsibilities, including but not limited to: following Commission policies and procedures, completing required accreditation activities, or paying outstanding dues and/or fees.
- C. Accreditation materials.** All documentation related to accreditation activities including but not limited to the institution's written reports to the Commission, submitted evidence, team reports, institutional responses, confidential briefs, complaints or third-party comments, action notifications, substantive change requests, transcripts of proceedings, team rosters, and any correspondence of record. Accreditation materials are considered confidential information and are retained as part of the institutional record in accordance with the Commission's *Maintenance and Retention of Commission Records Policy and*

*Procedures.*

- D. Accreditation lapse.** An accreditation lapse occurs when an institution does not maintain membership responsibilities, including but not limited to, following Commission policies and procedures, completing required accreditation activities, or paying outstanding dues and/or fees.
- E. Accreditation phase.** The stage of the institution in the accreditation lifecycle (pre-applicant, applicant, candidate, accredited). The phase will also indicate if an institution is a *former* applicant, candidate, or accredited institution. Accreditation phase is posted on the institution's directory listing on the MSCHE website, with the exception of applicant institutions which are not displayed publicly in the institution directory.
- F. Accreditation status.** The member institution's standing with the Commission based on the most recent grant of candidate for accreditation status, grant of accreditation, reaffirmation, non-compliance, or adverse action taken by the Commission. Accreditation status is posted on the institution's directory listing on the MSCHE website.
- G. Authorized representative from member institution.** The institution will designate specific individuals to serve as authorized representatives of the institution when they designate them as key contacts (CEO, ALO, CAO, CFO, Portal Delegate) in the secure MSCHE portal. Authorized representatives act responsibly on behalf of the institution in matters related to accreditation and are individuals with whom the Commission will directly communicate. The Commission may consider the Chair of the Board to be an authorized representative of the institution.
- H. Commission representative.** Any individual who represents or serves the Commission in any capacity including but not limited to peer evaluators, Commission staff, and Commissioners.
- I. Confidential information.** Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, all information related to the institution and not generally known in spoken, printed, electronic or any other form or medium relating, directly or indirectly to business practices, policies and procedures, plans, strategies, agreements and contracts, pending or future transactions, trade secrets, negotiations, computer and information technology resources information, accounting information and records, and financial information. Confidential information shall not include information that was required to be disclosed by law, regulation, other lawful means or any information that is generally known to the public or in the public domain.
- J. Correspondence of record.** Any written communication or correspondence related to the process of making decisions about an institution. Correspondence of record is not miscellaneous correspondence with no significant business value including but not limited to notes of appreciation, congratulations, letters of transmittal, plans for meetings, confirmations of dates for staff visits, invitations to attend conferences, and other personal communications of commissioners, peer evaluators, or Commission staff. Correspondence of record is confidential and stored as part of the institutional record.

Correspondence of record does not include text messages and instant messages for these purposes, as the Commission staff are prohibited from using text messaging or instant messaging to conduct official Commission business.

- K. Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs (DAPIP).** A database operated and maintained by the federal government that provides information about institutions of higher education. The Commission reports required information to USDE through DAPIP. DAPIP directs users to the accreditor's website for the most current accreditation information and may not always reflect the most recent accreditation action taken by the Commission; the official actions taken by the Commission appear on the Commission website and the institution's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS).
- L. Institution directory.** The Commission's online listing of institutions that currently have candidate for accreditation status with or are accredited by MSCHE. The institution directory also provides pertinent information about former candidate or accredited institutions.
- M. Institutional record.** The compilation of all materials and data the Commission has on file related to the applicant, candidate, or accredited institution, including but not limited to the accreditation materials related to any accreditation activity, the record on file and transcripts for any proceeding, complaints, and any information or documents related to the institution collected by the Commission or received from external sources such as the government or other quality assurance agencies as part of ongoing monitoring activities.
- N. Member institution.** All institutions that are accredited by MSCHE or granted Candidate for Accreditation Status by MSCHE that are in good standing with respect to payment of dues and fees. Accreditation and candidacy shall be established according to the standards for accreditation, requirements of affiliation, policies and procedures, and applicable federal regulatory requirements adopted by the Commission.
- O. Personal information.** Information that is identifiable to any person, including, but not limited to, information that relates to a person's name, health, finances, education, business, use or receipt of governmental services or other activities, addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, driver license numbers, other identifying numbers, and any financial identifiers.
- P. Regulatory triad.** The regulatory triad in U.S. higher education is comprised of three oversight bodies (accrediting agencies, state governments, and the federal government), all holding different roles in the institutional oversight process. These three entities are also known as the program integrity triad and are intended to provide a balance between consumer protection, quality assurance, and oversight and compliance in postsecondary education.
- Q. Related entity.** An entity, regardless of form, that is legally distinct from the institution but has a relationship, connection, or interdependency with the institution. Examples

include but are not limited to (1) an individual, partnership, corporation, other entity, layer or group of ownership, or institution of higher education that exercises legal authority or control over the institution; (2) a subsidiary, controlled or supporting organization, other entity, or another institution of higher education for which the institution exercises legal authority or control over and thereby assumes liability; (3) an entity that has a voting interest and/or is granted a certain number of seats or representation on the institution's governing body such as a funding or religious sponsor; (4) a public college or university system administration or board which has legislative authority from an individual state, territory, or federal district over a group of institutions, or (5) a private college or university system administration or board which has legal authority over a group of institutions. Alumni associations, fundraising organizations, and teaching hospitals are not considered related entities. Local, county, and state legislatures, other accreditors, local advisory boards, and government agencies or jurisdictions are not considered related entities. External non-accredited entities with which the institution has a written contract for the provision of limited student services or programs are not considered related entities.

**R. Scope of accreditation.** The institution's accreditation status covers a defined scope of educational offerings, including but not limited to credential levels, delivery methods, and locations (branch campuses, additional locations, and other instructional sites) which have been reviewed by the Commission during accreditation activities. Any changes proposed by a member institution that are considered substantive per Commission policy and procedures must be reviewed through the substantive change review process prior to implementation in order to be included within the institution's scope of accreditation by the Commission.

**S. Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS).** The Commission's official public statement about each institution's current accreditation status. The SAS is a downloadable, printable statement with information about the institution, including but not limited to the institution's accreditation phase, accreditation status, scope of accreditation, and a history of the accreditation actions taken by Commission.

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Federal Regulations: *34 CFR § 602.12; 602.23 Operating procedures all agencies must have; § 602.26 Notification of accrediting decisions; § 602.27 Other information an agency must provide the Department; § 602.28 Regard for decision of states and other accrediting agencies*

Standards for Accreditation: Standard II

Requirements of Affiliation: #5, #14

Related Documents: *Antitrust Compliance Policy; Antitrust Compliance Procedures; Accreditation Actions Policy;*

*Accreditation Actions Procedures; Government Agencies and the Commission on Higher Education; The Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO): Roles and Responsibilities; Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations; Mid-Atlantic Region Commission on Higher Education Bylaws; Peer Evaluators Policy; Peer Evaluators Procedures; Statement of Ethical Conduct; Third Party Comments;*